

12 In (the Body) or 12 Out (of the Body)?

2 Corinthians 12:3 (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;)

Did the Kingdom saints stay Kingdom saints or transfer into the Body of Christ?

Reasons they could have been transferred into the BOC.

- Paul, writing to those in the Body of Christ, says to the Corinthians “with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”. This indicated there is no distinction between Kingdom and BOC. They are also said to be baptized by one Spirit into one body. (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- Romans 12:5 calls all those Paul is writing to members of the Body. How could Paul do this if there were two groups of believers?
- Both Barnabas and Silas were saved under the Kingdom program. Would Paul have chosen men who were not members of the BOC to minister to Gentiles?
- Apollos was saved under the Kingdom program but yet later we see him working in harmony with Paul for according to 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. This obviously refers to the BOC.
- Andronicus and Junias were in Christ before Paul and therefore were Kingdom saints. They were in Rome at the same time Paul wrote Romans and therefore were included in the reference to being in the one Body (Romans 12:5).
Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was
- Galatians 2:7—9 states Peter was entrusted with the Gospel of the Circumcision and Paul the Gospel of the Uncircumcision. Peter indeed WAS given this commission, but after Paul’s commission was given they joined him in proclaiming the gospel of the Grace of God.
- Imagine the confusion of having to preach different doctrines to two different groups with two different destinies.

Reasons they could have stayed Kingdom saints.

- Peter clearly wrote to Kingdom saints to encourage them as they saw the Kingdom program diminishing. This is why he told them that God is faithful to fulfill His promises.
- The Kingdom saints have an earthly hope while we have a heavenly hope. How can they have both.
Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- When Peter and Paul agreed to maintain separate ministries (Galatians 2:7—9) this showed there were two distinct groups otherwise there would be no need to agree to split up the ministry duties.
- Paul clearly points out these two groups (circumcised and uncircumcised) calling them the new creation (the Body of Christ) and the Israel of God (the Kingdom saints, believing Jews).
Galatians 6:15—16 ¹⁵For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.
¹⁶And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.
- A careful reading of 1 Corinthians 1:2 show that Kingdom saints and BOC saints are referred to as sanctified—those who call on the name of the Lord. Paul further separates the two groups in verse 2 by saying: “their Lord and ours”. However, the letter is only addressed to Body saints so when 1 Corinthians 12:13 says we are all baptized into one body, it is only referring to Body saints.
- Andronicus and Junias were said to be in Christ before Paul. If we assume that being in Christ is being in the Body then this would be a valid point. However, both Kingdom and Body saints can be considered to be in Christ as far as their redemption is concerned. It is Jesus Christ who is the foundation for all believers, past, present and future.

- Paul calling all believers in Rome members of the Body of Christ does not stand up to scrutiny if you realize that Paul directly addressed Jews in Romans 2, 9—11. Why would Paul single out Jews if he were talking to Body members where there is no distinction of Jew or Gentile? Paul make it clear when he addressed Kingdom saints so as not to confuse the two groups.
- Just the fact that God raised up a new Apostle to go to the Gentiles indicates the Kingdom saints stayed Kingdom saints. If the 12 Disciples became Body saints, they would be the ones going to the Gentiles.

Connections between Kingdom and Grace

- We often highlight the differences between the Gospel of the Kingdom and the Gospel of the Grace of God but seldom look at their commonalities.
 - I'm sure this occurs because we are always trying to contrast the events and doctrine of the Gospels with that of the Church, the Body of Christ to prove a new dispensation has begun.
 - If everything was the same between the Gospels and Paul's writings, there would be no dispensational distinction—no new dispensation would have begun.
- However, there are a number of things that ARE very similar between the two.
 - Just because there are similarities does not at all take away from the evidence that a completely new program was introduced by God through Paul.
 - Just because there are many similarities between the laws of Minnesota and Iowa does not mean they are the same. They are still considered two completely different sets of laws.
- Christ as the foundation.
 - Chosen by God's foreknowledge
 - Sanctification
 - Cleansed by the blood of Christ
 - By God's grace
 - through His resurrection
 - 1 Peter 1:1—3** ¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - Titus 1:1** Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
 - Romans 5:9** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.
 - Repentance
 - 2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
 - Romans 2:4** Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?
 - Christ as Cornerstone
 - Acts 4:11**" He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.
 - Corinthians 3:11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
 - What we believe about Jesus Christ is based on what is written in the Old Testament

- Ephesians 2:20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,
- Partakers of the New Covenant (spiritually, not physically).
 - Hebrews 8:8** For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;
 - 2 Corinthians 3:6** who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
 - Romans 15:27** Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.
 - We and they have a faith that is equally precious.
 - 2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours (a faith that is equally precious), by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:
 - All are in Christ whether in the Kingdom or in the Body.
 - 1 Peter 5:14** Greet one another with a kiss of love Peace be to you all who are in Christ.
 - Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:
 - Similarities in godly living
 - Encouraged to get into the Word
 - 1 Peter 2:2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
 - 2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
 - Told to obey authorities.
 - 1 Peter 2:13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
 - Romans 13:1** Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
 - Husbands are to love, honor and be understanding
 - 1 Peter 3:7** You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way... and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life,
 - Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
 - Wives are to submit.
 - 1 Peter 3:1** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands...
 - Colossians 3:18** Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
 - Love one another.
 - 1 Peter 4:8** ...keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
 - Romans 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
 - Use your God-given gifts.
 - 1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 - Romans 12:6** Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly:
 - Trust God completely
 - 1 Peter 5:7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
 - Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
 - Example: Barnabas (Kingdom saint) encouraging Gentiles (Body) to remain true to the Lord.
 - Acts 11:20—23** ²⁰But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. ²²The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. ²³Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord;

Originally taught at Bethesda Sunday School March 8, 2009