What Makes The Body of Christ Distinctive?

A Biblical Study of Ephesians 4:11-14
11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting”
Are We **Distinct** From The World (Secular & Religious)?

- **Matthew 5:13-16**
  “You are the salt of the earth... the light of the world”
  “A city set on a hill cannot be hid”

- **I Peter 4:1-4**
  “In regard to these they think it **strange** that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”
The Church In The 1st Century:  
*A Sect?*

- **Acts 24:5**  
  “a sect of the Nazarenes”

- **Acts 24:14**  
  “The way which they call a sect”

- **Acts 28:22**  
  “this sect… spoken against everywhere”

“sect” – Grk. HAIRESIS “choose; a chosen course”

*heresy, heretic*

Acts 5:17 “sect of the Sadducees”

Acts 15:5 “sect of the Pharisees”
The Body Of Christ Is Distinctive By: Leadership

Ephesians 4:11 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers”

- **Apostles & Prophets**  
  Ephesians 2:20; 3:5  
  2:20 “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone ...  
  3:5 as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”

- **Evangelists**  
  2 Tim. 4:1-5; 1 Tim. 4:12  
  4:2 “Preach the word... reprove, rebuke, exhort... 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry”  
  4:12 “but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

- **Pastors & Teachers**  
  Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4  
  20: 28 “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God ...  
  5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers ... but being examples to the flock”
The Restoration Movement
1800 - 2018

• "We speak where the Bible speaks; We are silent where the Bible is silent"
  I Peter 4:11 “If any man speaks, let him speak as…”

• Ephesians 4:1-16
  The Unity of the Spirit (vs. 3-6) - inflexible
  The Unity of the Faith (vs. 13) - flexible (patience)
The Inflexible (Non-Negotiables)

The Unity of the Spirit

- One God
- One Lord
- One Spirit
- One Hope
- One Faith
- One Baptism
- One Body (Church)

Ecumenical Movement:

A movement aimed to promote understanding and cooperation among Christian churches; aimed ultimately at universal Christian unity.
Do You Believe One Faith?

• Jude 3
  “I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

1. The Lord’s Supper? Weekly (Acts 20:7)

2. Music? Singing (Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13)
Do You Believe One Baptism?

- Acts 19:3-5
  “And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John's baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. Action? Burial (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12)
Do You Believe One Body?

• Ephesians 1:22-23
  “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

1. Denominationalism? Many churches (I Corinthians 1:10-13)
2. Ecumenicalism? All churches (John 17:20-21)
Do You Believe *Pastor is Preacher*?

- Pastor = Shepherd = Overseer = Elder
  - Acts 20:17 “elders” (presbyteros)
  - 20:28 “overseers” (episkopos = bishop)
    - “to feed” (poimaino = shepherd)
  - 1 Peter 5:1 “elders” (presbyteros)
    - 5:2 “shepherd” (poimaino“ = pastor)
    - “oversight” (episkopeo = overseer, bishop)
  - 1 Timothy 3:1-7 “bishop” (episkopos) *must be* ...
  - Titus 1:5 “elders” (presbyteros)
    - 1:7 “bishop” (episkopos) *must be* ...
The Body Of Christ Is Distinctive By:

Singular Focus On Spiritual Growth

- For the Equipping the Saints  Mentoring
- For the Work of Ministry  Serving
- For the Edifying of the Body  Growing

Ephesians 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ
Have You Been Mentored By Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers?

- **Apostles**
  Philip. 3:17; 4:9 (Matthew, John, Paul, Peter...)

- **Prophets**
  I John 1:1-4 (Mark, Luke, James, Jude...)

- **Evangelists**
  I Timothy 4:12-16 (Philip, Timothy, Brent ...)

- **Pastors**
  Hebrews 13:7; I Peter 5:3 (elders / shepherds)

- **Teachers**
  Titus 2:1-8 ("Older men... Older women... showing yourself to be a pattern of good works")
The Body Of Christ Is Distinctive By:

PATIENCE IN WORKING OUT

THE UNITY OF THE FAITH

Ephesians 4:13-14 “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

• “till” a never ending process to Judgment
  1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

• The unity of the faith
  newborn babes (I Pet. 2:2), weak (Rom. 15:1; Gal. 6:1)
  teachers (Heb. 5:12-14), strong (Rom. 15:1)

• The knowledge of Jesus
  Paul not there (Phil. 3:9-14) “I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do... I press on to the mark...”
  so I’m not either...
Distinct Churches
- Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)
- Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)
- Rome (Rom. 1:8)
- Philippi (Phil. 1:9-10)
- Colosse (Col. 1:9-10)

Extinct Churches
- Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodicea