

Three Elements of Gnosticism

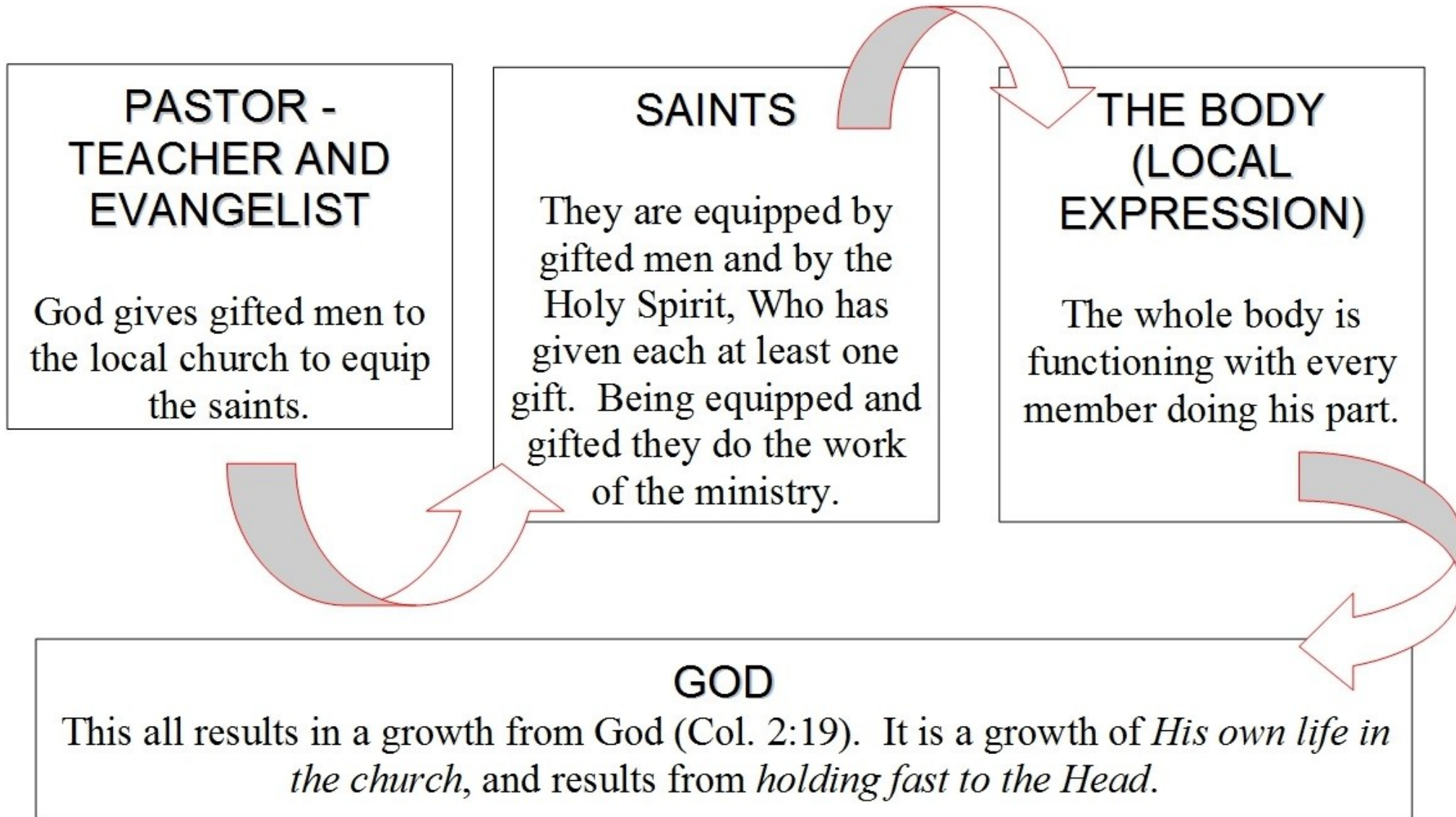
- A **Jewish** element. It emphasized legalism, ritualism, and the observance of holy days.
- A **pagan** element. It was a mix of myths, philosophy, and false religions. They taught that spirit is holy and matter is evil. Since matter is evil, God could have nothing to do with the world directly, and so created the world through a series of intermediate beings. These series of “emanations” (or “aeons”) or angels were worshipped by these people since God is too holy to be approached directly. Christ was one of these emanations.

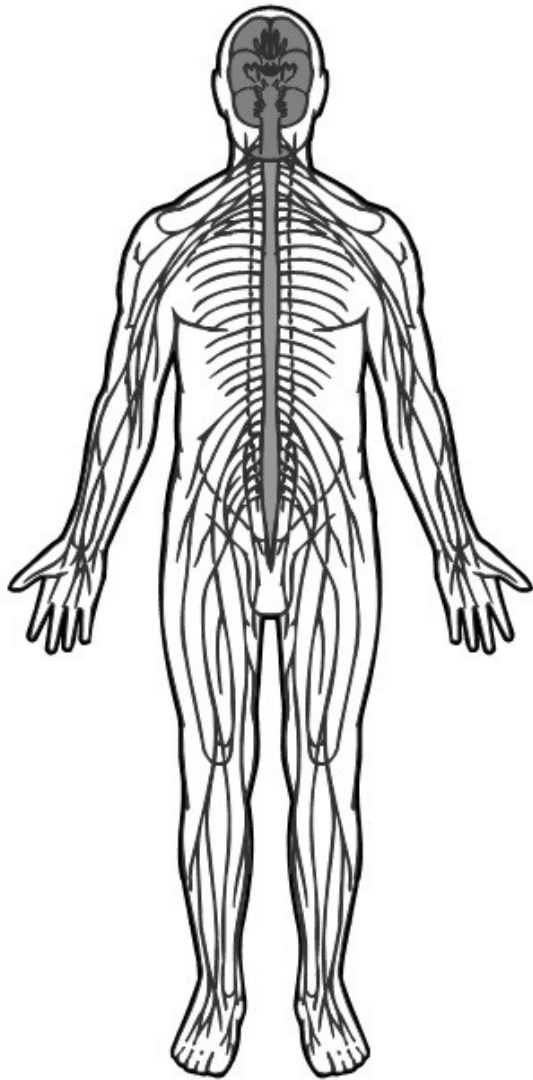
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- A “**Christian**” element. It wore the mask of Christianity. This is what could have made it so attractive to believers.

Get the Picture?

Colossians 2:19 (taken with Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:7)





But, to be occupied with legalism or false doctrine is to be out of touch with the Head. Spiritual paralysis of the body occurs, since believers are not holding fast to the Head and drawing strength and life from Him. Therefore, there is no growth of His life in the church.

Applications to Ponder

- Every member of this local expression of the body of Christ is to do his/her part in ministry. Are you? How?
- Are you exercising your spiritual gifts? How?
- Are you holding fast to the Head?
- Have you been drawn off course by false doctrine or legalism?

