

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

WEEK 6 OF 12

Entanglement and the Body of Christ

Spooky action at a distance — and that they may all be one

THE BIG IDEA

Two particles, once entangled, remain instantaneously correlated across *any* distance — across the universe, if you like. Measure the spin of one and the spin of the other is determined in the same instant, faster than light could travel. Einstein called it *spooky action at a distance* and hoped it would turn out to be wrong. Decades of experiments have confirmed it. The Bible has been describing a similar reality — the church as one body across all distances and times — for two thousand years.

In 1935 Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen published a paper meant to embarrass quantum mechanics. They imagined two particles produced together, with correlated properties (say, opposite spins), and then separated by a huge distance. Quantum mechanics predicted that measuring the spin of one would *instantly* determine the spin of the other. Einstein argued this must be absurd. Nothing can travel faster than light. Therefore quantum mechanics must be incomplete.

He called it *spukhafte Fernwirkung* — spooky action at a distance. It became known as the EPR paradox. For thirty years it remained a thought experiment.

Then in 1964 John Stewart Bell formulated a mathematical theorem that would let you experimentally distinguish between Einstein (*local hidden variables*) and standard quantum mechanics (*genuine entanglement*). In the 1970s and 80s, Alain Aspect and colleagues ran the experiments. The result has been confirmed dozens of times since, including at trans-continental distances and in space-based experiments. **Einstein was wrong. Entanglement is real.** Two particles, once joined, remain correlated across any distance, instantaneously. The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022 was awarded for this work.

Nobody knows quite what to do with this. The information «passing» between entangled particles is not normal information — it cannot be used to send signals. But the correlation is real, instantaneous, and unaffected by distance. Some physicists speak of a *non-local* structure to reality — that at the deepest level, things are not really «separate» in the way classical physics assumed.

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SCRIPTURE

John 17:20–21 · That They May Be One

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

²⁰Οὐ περὶ τούτων δὲ ἐρωτῶ μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ περὶ τῶν πιστευόντων διὰ τοῦ λόγου αὐτῶν εἰς ἐμέ,
²¹ἵνα πάντες ἐν ὧσι, καθὼς σύ, πάτερ, ἐν ἐμοὶ κάγω ἐν σοί, ἵνα καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐν ἡμῖν ἐν ὧσιν, ἵνα ὁ κόσμος πιστεύσῃ ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας.

English Standard Version

²⁰I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 26–27 · One Body, Many Members

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

¹²Καθάπερ γὰρ τὸ σῶμα ἓν ἐστι καὶ μέλη ἔχει πολλά, πάντα δὲ τὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματος τοῦ ενός, πολλὰ ὄντα, ἓν ἐστι σῶμα, οὕτω καὶ ὁ Χριστός...
²⁶καὶ εἴτε πάσχει ἐν μέλος, συμπάσχει πάντα τὰ μέλη, εἴτε δοξάζεται ἐν μέλος, συγχαίρει πάντα τὰ μέλη. ²⁷Ὑμεῖς δὲ ἐστε σῶμα Χριστοῦ καὶ μέλη ἐκ μέρους.

English Standard Version

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...
²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Romans 12:5 · Members One of Another

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

οὕτως οἱ πολλοὶ ἐν σῶμά ἐσμεν ἐν Χριστῷ, ὁ δὲ καθ' εἷς ἀλλήλων μέλη.

English Standard Version

So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

THE BIBLICAL CASE

What Entanglement Actually Says

Two important clarifications, lest we over-claim. First, entanglement does *not* let you send information faster than light. The correlation cannot be exploited for communication. Second, entanglement is fragile in practice; particles «decohere» quickly when they interact with their environment. But the principle is verified beyond reasonable doubt: at the deepest level, the universe contains genuine

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non-local correlations. Two things that *were one* remain, in some real sense, *still one*, no matter the distance between them.

The Body of Christ Is Entangled

When Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is *one body*, that *if one member suffers, all suffer together*, he is not speaking sentimentally. He is naming a metaphysical fact. The believer in Pinson, Tennessee is genuinely, ontologically joined to the believer in Yangon, Myanmar, by the Spirit that indwells both. Distance does not weaken the bond. Centuries do not weaken it; the saints in glory are joined to us still (Heb 12:1). Communion is real. Quantum entanglement does not *prove* the body of Christ, but it shows the structure of reality is exactly the structure the doctrine of the church predicts: a universe in which things joined remain joined.

The Trinity, Entangled From Eternity

Push the analogy one further step. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three separated persons who occasionally cooperate. They are *perichoretic* — mutually indwelling, inseparable, one God. Jesus prays in John 17 that the church would share in that pattern: *that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you*. The deepest non-locality in the universe is not entangled particles. It is the Triune God.

THE CONVERGENCE

Einstein was sure that nothing real could be correlated faster than light. He was wrong. Entanglement is real, demonstrated, Nobel-winning physics. Scripture has said for two thousand years that the church is *one body* across all distances and that the Triune God is one across all eternity. The deepest physical discovery of the last century is exactly the kind of universe Christian doctrine predicts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Paul says «if one member suffers, all suffer together» (1 Cor 12:26), have you experienced that as a real fact or only an ideal? Tell the story.
2. Distance does not weaken entanglement. Does distance weaken your sense of being one with the worldwide church? Why or why not?
3. Communion of the saints includes those who have died. How does quantum non-locality (or just the resurrection) reframe that for you?

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4. Jesus prays that we would be one «just as» he and the Father are one (John 17:21). What is the implication of that «just as»?
5. What would it look like, this week, to live as though you are entangled with another believer somewhere who is praying for you right now?

CLOSING PRAYER

*Triune God, mystery of mysteries, you are three persons and one God, perfectly joined, perfectly distinct, perfectly one. You have prayed us into your oneness, that we may be one as you are one. We confess we have lived as though we were separate, isolated, alone — as though distance and time could break the bond your Son has made between us and you, between us and every believer. Restore us to a true experience of communion. Make us feel the joy of those who rejoice today and the suffering of those who suffer today. Bind us closer to the church on every continent and in every century. Through Jesus Christ, in whom we are all one. **Amen.***

Week 6 of 12 — A Quantum Case For God, a Pleasant Springs Church discipleship series. The complete 12-week study, and every other lesson, is at ps-church.com/discipleship/quantum-case-for-god