

## INTRODUCTION

- \* FOCUSING ON THE CHRIST ... *The Shadow of Christ, The Life of Christ, The Return of Christ, The Reign of Christ* ... *The Reflection of Christ*
- \* **What we say, and how we live, is a reflection of Who, or what, is residing and reigning in our heart!**
- \* We saw this as we examined the Individual Reflection as seen in:  
Our Speech (Lk 6:43-46); Finances (Matt 6:19-24) & Relationships (Eph 5:32-6:9)
- \* Last week we began considering the collective reflection of the church. First, we are considering the illustrations that Scripture uses of the relationship of the church to Christ ... then, Lord willing, we will consider the interactions of the church.

## INSTRUCTION

### I. THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

#### A. The Building (cf. I Corinthians 3: 9-17; Ephesians 2: 19-22; I Peter 2: 4-5)

1. THE FOUNDATION OF THE BUILDING – The Word
  - a. Scripture (cf. Ephesians 2: 20)
  - b. Jesus Christ (cf. I Corinthians 3: 11)
2. THE NATURE OF THE BUILDING
  - a. We Are Being Fitted Together
  - b. We Are Being Built Together
3. THE PURPOSE OF THE BUILDING
  - a. To Be A Holy Temple – Our Character (Eph 2:21-22; I Pet 1:15-16)
  - b. To Offer Up Spiritual Sacrifices – Our Activity (cf. I Pet 2: 4-5; John 4:24; Heb 13:15-16)

#### B. The B\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. John 3:29)

1. THE N\_\_\_\_TURE OF THE BRIDE (cf. Ephesians 5: 22-33)
  - a. Her H\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22-24)
  - b. Her H\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 26-27; Hosea 2: 16-23)
  - c. Her O\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 31)
2. THE F\_\_\_\_TURE OF THE BRIDE
  - a. The D\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. John 14: 2-7)
  - b. The A\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. John 14: 3; Matthew 25: 1-13; Acts 1: 11; I Thess 4: 13-18; I Corinthians 15: 51-52)
  - c. The M\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Revelation 19: 5-9)

#### C. The B\_\_\_\_\_

### II. THE INTERACTIONS OF THE CHURCH

## INTROSPECTION

- \* ARE YOU A PART OF THE BRIDE ... OR APART FROM THE BRIDE?
- \* HOW SCRIPTURAL IS YOUR VIEW OF THE CHURCH  
– DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE BRIDE IS LARGER THAN THIS LOCAL BODY?
- \* HOW COMMITTED ARE YOU TO LIVING A CHASTE LIFE TO THE LORD  
– BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A COLLECTIVE GATHERING?
- \* HOW FOCUSED ARE YOU ON THE IMMINENCY OF THE BRIDE GROOM'S RETURN?