

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 (Mt 6:19-24) & Relationships (Eph 5:32-6:9)
- * A few weeks ago we began considering the collective reflection of the church by examining the illustrations that Scripture uses of the relationship of the church to Christ – first, considering the church as the Building, then as the Bride.
- * Today, we would like to consider the church as the Body of Christ.
- * Church Growth is a very hot topic. How do we get the church to grow? Many churches seek to use programs, music and such to entice people to come to their assembly. But what does the Bible teach about church growth? If I asked how many would like to see our church grow, I would expect that almost every person would give their affirmation. But are we, Biblically doing “what it takes” for a church to grow?

INSTRUCTION ... Let us consider the “Body of Christ”

I. THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

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

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| 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 Bride (cf. John 3:29)

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| 1. THE NATURE OF THE BRIDE (cf. Eph 5: 22-33) | a. Her Humbleness (v. 22-24) | b. Her Holiness (v. 26-27; Hosea 2: 16-23) | c. Her Oneness (v. 31) |
| 2. THE FUTURE OF THE BRIDE | a. Dwelling Place (cf. Jn 14: 2-7) | b. Anticipated Return (cf. Jn 14: 3; Mt 25: 1-13; Acts 1: 11; I Th 4: 13-18; I Cor 15: 51-52) | c. Marriage Supper (cf. Rev 19: 5-9) |

C. The B_____

1. RECOGNITION OF OUR H_____ (cf. Ephesians 1: 22-23)

2. RECOGNITION OF OUR C_____ (cf. Ephesians 4: 1-7; Phil 1:27; Col 1:9-10; 1 Thess 2:10-12)
 - a. Walk Worthy _____ (v. 1; cf. 2 Timothy 1:8-11; I Cor 1:1-2; Phil 3:14)

 - b. Walk Worthy _____ (v. 2; Phil 2: 3; Matt 11:28-29)

 - c. Walk Worthy _____ (v. 3)

3. RECOGNITION OF OUR G_____ (cf. Ephesians 4: 11-16)

II. THE INTERACTIONS OF THE CHURCH

INTROSPECTION

- * ARE YOU TRULY SEEKING TO WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH YOU WERE CALLED?
- * ARE YOU WALKING IN HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS – PUTTING THE VALUE AND DESIRES OF OTHERS ABOVE YOURSELF?
- * ARE YOU ENDEAVORING TO MAINTAIN UNITY AND PEACE IN THE ASSEMBLY?