

Pictures of the Church

Introduction: The Bible is full of word pictures or images or metaphors that help us see the truth about the Church. The Church is pictured as the body, the temple, the priesthood, the bride, and the flock.

1. The Church is the Body (Paul uses this image in Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians)

a. At salvation believers are baptized into the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13)

1. This was a new ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-20)
2. This new ministry started at Pentecost (Acts 1:5; 2:4; 11:16)

b. The Body of Christ started at Pentecost (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23, 29-30; Col 1:10, 2:4)

1. The Church is not the literal body of Christ as RCC teaches
2. The Church is the figurative body of Christ to teach three lessons

A. Unity in the Body (1 Cor 12:4-13)

B. Diversity in the Body (1 Cor 12:14-24)

C. Mutual concern in the Body (1 Cor 12:25-26)

2. Christ is the Head of the Body (Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23; Col 1:18; 2:19) (Paul was refuting three false religions in Colossians)

a. Gnosticism in Col 2:9

1. Gnosticism taught its followers to deny the human body
2. Remedy is to give Christ the head the preeminence

b. Mysticism in Col 2:10

1. Mysticism taught its followers to worship angels
2. Remedy is to give Christ the head the preeminence

c. Legalism in Col 2:11

1. Legalism taught its followers to keep the law
2. Remedy is to give Christ the head the preeminence

A. Christ the Head has authority over the Body (Col 1:15-19; Eph 1:22-23; 5:23-25)

B. Christ the Head sustains the Body through the members (Eph 4:7-16)

C. Christ the Head has authority over and provides for the Body that there might be spiritual growth (Col 2:19)