

Pictures of the Church

Wednesday, April 14

1. ***The Church is the Body of Christ.*** This picture shows our relationship to each other in the Body (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:7-16). This relationship produces growth in strength.
2. ***The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.*** This picture shows our relationship to the unsaved by adding living stones to the growing Temple (Ephesians 2:19-22). This relationship produces growth in outreach (1 Peter 2:4-5; Matthew 3:9).
3. ***The Church the Bride of Christ.*** This picture shows our relationship with Christ our Bridegroom (Ephesians 5:21-33). This relationship produces growth in love.

The picture of the Bride of Christ was based on the three phases of the Jewish marriage customs in the Bible (Matthew 1:18-25; John 14:1-3).

1. The Betrothal or the Contract Phase of Salvation (2 Corinthians 11:1-3)

- A. The betrothal or marriage contract was binding (Mt. 1:18-25).
- B. The betrothal was sealed or purchased with a price (Acts 20:28).
- C. Paul quotes from Genesis 2:24 in Ephesians 5:31 to show the connection between the body and bride pictures.

2. The Presentation of the Bride to the Bridegroom at His Coming (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Ephesians 5:27; 1 John 3:2)

3. The Consummation or the Marriage (The Bridegroom escorts the Bride back to His house)

A. The Marriage of the Lamb takes place in Heaven

- 1) After the Judgment Seat (Rev 19:7, 8). She is arrayed with the righteous awards received at the Judgment Seat.
- 2) Before the Second Coming (Rev 19:11)

B. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place on earth for 1000 years

- 1) The millennium in the Gospels is put under the figure of a banquet (Mt 8:10; 22:1-14; 25:10; Luke 14:16).
- 2) The Church as the Bride of Christ reigns with Him (Rev 1:6; 20:4).