

THE CHURCH THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God’s people.
4. The role of the church in God’s plan of redemption...
 - a. Eternal purpose
 - b. Connected to the crucifixion
 - c. Result of the resurrection
 - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
 - a. “The Called Out”
 - b. The Body of Christ
 - c. The Bride of Christ

I. The Beauty of the Bride

(2 Corinthians 11:2)

- A. The church is described as the bride of Christ.
 1. “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom” (John 3:29).
 2. Those who become Christians are betrothed/married to Christ (Rom. 7:1-4).
 - a. Note that this did not take place until after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - b. Note that this demonstrates the change from physical Israel to spiritual Israel as the people of God.
- B. The church is a beautiful bride when it is pure (cf. Song of Solomon).
 1. Pure in doctrine (2 Corinthians 11:2-4)
 2. Pure from sin (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- C. Thus, a beautiful relationship exists between Christ and His church.

II. The Blessings of the Bride

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

- A. The church is the only bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-23).
 1. One husband – Jesus
 2. One wife – the church
 3. Marriage to many churches would be spiritual polygamy!
- B. The church wears the name of Christ (Matt. 16:18; Isa. 56:5; 62:1-2; 65:15; Acts 11:26; 20:28).
- C. The church is loved greatly by Christ (Eph. 5:25-33).
- D. The church is joined eternally to Christ (1 Cor. 15:24; 1 Thes. 4:17).
- E. The church is saved by Christ (Eph. 5:23).
- F. The church bears fruit for Christ (Rom. 7:4; cf. John 15:1ff).

III. The Faithfulness of the Bride

(Matthew 19:6)

- A. The church is faithful when obedient (Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21).
- B. The church is faithful when loyal to Truth.
- C. The church is faithful when pure from sin. (Cf. Jer. 3; 23)