

Christ's assembly, congregation:
AKA: Bride, Body, Family, Kingdom,
Temple, House

The Bride of Christ

2Cor 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The Body of Christ

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Does this bride submit to and serve her husband?

- Eph 5:22 Brides, (submit) to husbands as to Lord
- Vs 23 Christ is the head of the congregation (His bride) and savior of the body.
- Vs 24 As the congregation (His bride) is subject to her head.
- Vs 25 Christ loves her and gave Himself for her – prepared Himself a body to sacrifice Heb 10:5
- Vs 26 to purify her before the wedding
- Vs 27 She comes to Him pure and perfect having been washed
- Vs 30 We're members of Him, His flesh, bones

What are our preparations?

- What did we do to prepare for this assembly? Did arrive early, prepared, work assignments done? Col 3:23 as unto the Lord
- Mat 25:1-4 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. (Laverne and Frances compete to arrive first)
- Those invited are expected to show respect for the Master in their preparation. Are we like the guest in Mat 22:12,13 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The bride's preparations

- Bride's attire – our work together in the congregation
 - Rev 16:15 Blessed is the one who remains awake and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed.”
 - Rev 3:18 Laodecians were spiritually naked ...told to get “white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed;”
 - Rev 19:7,8 the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

How does this body respond to Christ, the head?

- **The body of Christ**
- When Zachary was considering returning as a member of this body, he wanted to know what he could do. We mentioned Rom 12, 1Cor 12, Eph 4 and Mat 18 as places that describe members of Christ's body.
- Eph 1:22,23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

How does this body respond to Christ, the head?

- Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- You can't be saved without sacrificing for this body of Christ. Remember the foot washing?
- Vs 5 “so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

Male and female members submit to their head.

- According to 1Cor 11, Christ is head over the body and the men, then older men over younger men (1Tim 5:1), then men over women (1Tim 2:11,12) then older women over younger women (Tit 2:4), then children (Eph 6:1)
- We submit to each other **1Co 12:1** All the members make the one body. Remember Peter's protest in John 13:8 "you shall never wash my feet!" Jesus' example is how we serve in the body of Christ.

No neglecting of members

- Body of Christ is made of various functions. Some pleasant to behold, others ignored. Like our own bodies. Parts seen and parts hidden.
- 1Co 12:22,23 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,
- Vs 26 Communicating in order to suffer and honor together...

Ephesians 4

- Eph 3:10 manifold wisdom of God known through the congregation's design and function.
- Eph 3:21 Glory to God in the congregation in Christ.
- Eph 4:1-3 walk in a worthy manner, bearing with one another in love, keeping unity of the spirit: The seven ones: Vs 4-6

Gifts to the body of Christ

- After the miraculous gifts of the 1st century apostles; Vs 11 evangelists, pastors and teachers; in order to:
- Vs 12 Equip the saints for the work (external), building up (edifying) the body (internal work), all until:
- Vs 13 We grow up to completion or maturity: unity, fullness of Christ (like Him).
- Vs 14 Not as children on milk, in danger of division over error.

Self testing

- Eph 4:15 Body is built up to follow Christ (the head) in love.
- Eph 4:16 from whom (Christ) the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- How are you doing? How are we doing?