

Pictures of the Church

While the church appears in many forms all around the world, it's the pictures in the Bible that are most significant.

A. Church is the Body of which Christ is the Head

1 Corinthians 12 (pg. 1058)

Christ is the Head of the Body (Ephesians 5:23).
All the many parts work together only if we are rightly connected to the Head.

Pictures authority and ministry.

Are we a coordinated body?

B. Church is the Flock of which Christ is the Shepherd

John 10 (pg. 988)

Sheep aren't known for their acuity or their strength.

Acts 20:28-29

Pictures provision and protection.

Are we following the Shepherd?

C. Church is the Tree of which Christ is the Trunk

John 15 (pg. 944)

Pictures life and fruitfulness.

Branches may be grafted into the trunk (Romans 11).

Jesus said His disciples glorify God when they bear fruit.

Are we bearing fruit for God's glory?

D. Church is the Bride for whom Christ is the Groom

Revelation 19:6-9 (pg. 1139)

Ancient Jewish marriage customs were different.

Rather than the groom / bride establishing their own household, the groom would return to his father's house after the betrothal to prepare a bridal chamber. When the place was complete, the groom would return and fetch his bride. Sometimes, the bride would not know the day or hour of her husband-to-be's return, so the groom's arrival was usually announced with a trumpet call and a shout so the bride knew the time had arrived.

After the ceremony, the couple would attend a wedding feast in their honor.

1Thessalonians 4:16-17

Pictures identity and love.

Are we loving Christ?