

“THE CHURCH - THE BODY OF CHRIST”

Lesson 48

1. There are many LOCAL churches but only one TRUE CHURCH.
2. The true church is called:
 - A. The BODY of Christ.
 - B. The BRIDE of Christ.
 - C. God’s BUILDING.
 - D. God’s TEMPLE.
 - E. The LIGHT of the WORLD.
 - F. The SALT of the EARTH.
 - G. Many other names
3. The word CHURCH is applied to LOCAL assemblies such as: “The Church at Corinth,” “The Church at Rome,” etc.
4. The word church ALSO encompasses ALL BELIEVERS in Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13 & 14; Ephesians 4:4-6 It is referred to as ONE BODY.
5. There is one body IN CHRIST made up of:
 - A. All TRUE BELIEVERS.
 - B. REGARDLESS of church affiliation.
 - C. Every RACE AND COLOR will compose the body.
 - D. Every believer VISIBLE (living) or INVISIBLE (those who have died in the Lord).
 - E. All the REDEEMED.
6. The church is an ORGANISM, not an ORGANIZATION. An organism is a LIVING THING with vital signs of life.
7. The Greek word which we have translated is the word ECCLESIA which means A CALLED OUT people. Acts 7:38
8. We, as believers, are called out of THE WORLD and INTO fellowship with CHRIST and other Christians.
9. Christ is the HEAD of the church. Ephesians 1:22 and 23
10. Christ first mentioned the CHURCH in Matthew 16:18 and the church began to take its OUTWARD form at the day of PENTECOST. Eph. 3:9 & 10.
11. The FOUNDATION of the church is revealed in Matthew 16:13-18. 1 Cor. 3:9-11

12. Two GREEK WORDS are vitally important to the understanding of Matt. 16:13-18.
 - A. PETROS which means "LITTLE ROCK."
 - B. PETRA which means "LARGE ROCK."
13. On the basis of these two words Jesus told Peter: "You are a LITTLE rock, but upon this LARGE rock I will build MY church.
14. The ROCK in the Old Testament, out of which water flowed, was a PICTURE of Christ. Compare Exodus 17:6 with John 4:14.
15. Peter never claimed that THE CHURCH was to be BUILT on him but on Christ. 1 Peter 2:3-5
16. The LIVING STONE in this passage is based on the Greek word "LITHON" which means a large stone.
17. The word STONES, plural, is translated from the Greek "LITHOI" indicating MANY STONES.

* Christ, according to Peter, is the "Lithon," the One foundation Rock; and we are "lithoi," many living stones built upon one foundation, Jesus Christ.
18. The church is a BODY, an organic UNITY. 1 Corinthians 12:12
19. All believers are PLACED into the body of Christ by an act of the HOLY SPIRIT. 1 Corinthians 12:13
20. As a member of the body you must FUNCTION properly, fulfilling YOUR ROLE as God has PLACED you in it. 1 Cor. 12:14-26
21. The TRUE CHURCH is not a MATERIAL building, it is a group of LIVING STONES built upon the FOUNDATION stone, Jesus.
22. Jesus is not only the FOUNDATION of the body He is also the HEAD.
23. Because Jesus is the foundation we can be confident that it is SOUND AND SURE and will never give way.
24. As the HEAD of the body He DIRECTS and GUIDES.
25. The church is the HOUSEHOLD of God made up of the SAINTS, the saved ones. Ephesians 2:14-22
26. The church is the BRIDE OF CHRIST purchased by Him. Eph. 5:25

27. The MARRIAGE of Christ to the church (the bride) BRINGS FORTH FRUIT.
Romans 7:4
28. Jesus keeps His bride CLEAN by the WORD OF GOD. Eph. 5:26.
29. Jesus has a DESTINY for His bride. Eph. 5:25-27
30. The church is a part of GOD'S LAST INVITATION to the world. Revelation 22:17

The church, the total body of Christ, which is made up of many members, may differ in many outward respects. However, all members bear the same marks of a true believer. They may worship in a great cathedral or in a tent, may have a ritualistic form of worship or a very simple form of worship. These things make no difference. The thing that makes the difference is their saving faith in Jesus Christ. They all believe in the finished work of Christ - His deity, His virgin birth, His atoning death and resurrection and His coming again. They believe in prayer and worship. Their denominational tag has nothing to do with their being a part of the body of Christ. They are to be found in every area of the earth, in hundreds of different named churches. They all worship God and draw their rules and precepts from the Word of God. Some will sing and get happy and emotional while others are quiet and serene; but all love the one Lord and worship Him. We are all a part of the true church, His body, if we have accepted Him as Lord and Saviour.