



## Part 2

The Nature of the Church

Seven Pictures of the Church in Ephesians

# Picture 1 – The Assembly






## **Ephesians 1:22**

*Amplified Bible (AMP)*

**<sup>22</sup> And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church,**

**Church = ecclesia (greek) from the noun to “call out”**

- 
- *ecclesia* is a group of people that is formed by being called out of a larger group of people.
  - It is also a group called out for a special purpose.
  - We are called out of the world through faith in Jesus Christ for a special purpose of God

*How do you become a member of this assembly?*

**Certificate of Church Membership**

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_

Was received as a member of \_\_\_\_\_

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

In the city of \_\_\_\_\_

In the State/Province of \_\_\_\_\_

**Confessing Jesus, the Christ,  
as Sovereign and Savior.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor/Minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Minister




## **Matthew 16:15-18**

J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

**15** “But what about you?” he said to them. “Who do you say that I am?”

**16** Simon Peter answered, “You? You are Christ, the Son of the living God!”

**17-20** “Simon, son of Jonah, you are a fortunate man indeed!” said Jesus, “for it was not your own nature but my Heavenly Father who has revealed this truth to you! Now I tell you that you are Peter the rock, and it is on this rock that I am going to found my Church, and the powers of death will never prevail against it.”

- 
- ***You don't need a certificate of membership.***
  - *You only need the revelation that Jesus Christ [Messiah], is the Son of the living God.*
  - This revelation did not come through Peter's natural reasoning or logic. It came from God the Father through the Holy Spirit.
  - Peter now saw Jesus the divine eternal Son of God not the carpenter's son the knew up until then.



## ***Summary of this picture***

- *Being God's governmental authority through which by spiritual power and authority, He rules the nations.*
- *God has given certain offices – corporately we must recognise the office (or gifting) that each person holds in the assembly eg. apostles, prophets, shepherds, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, tongues etc.*

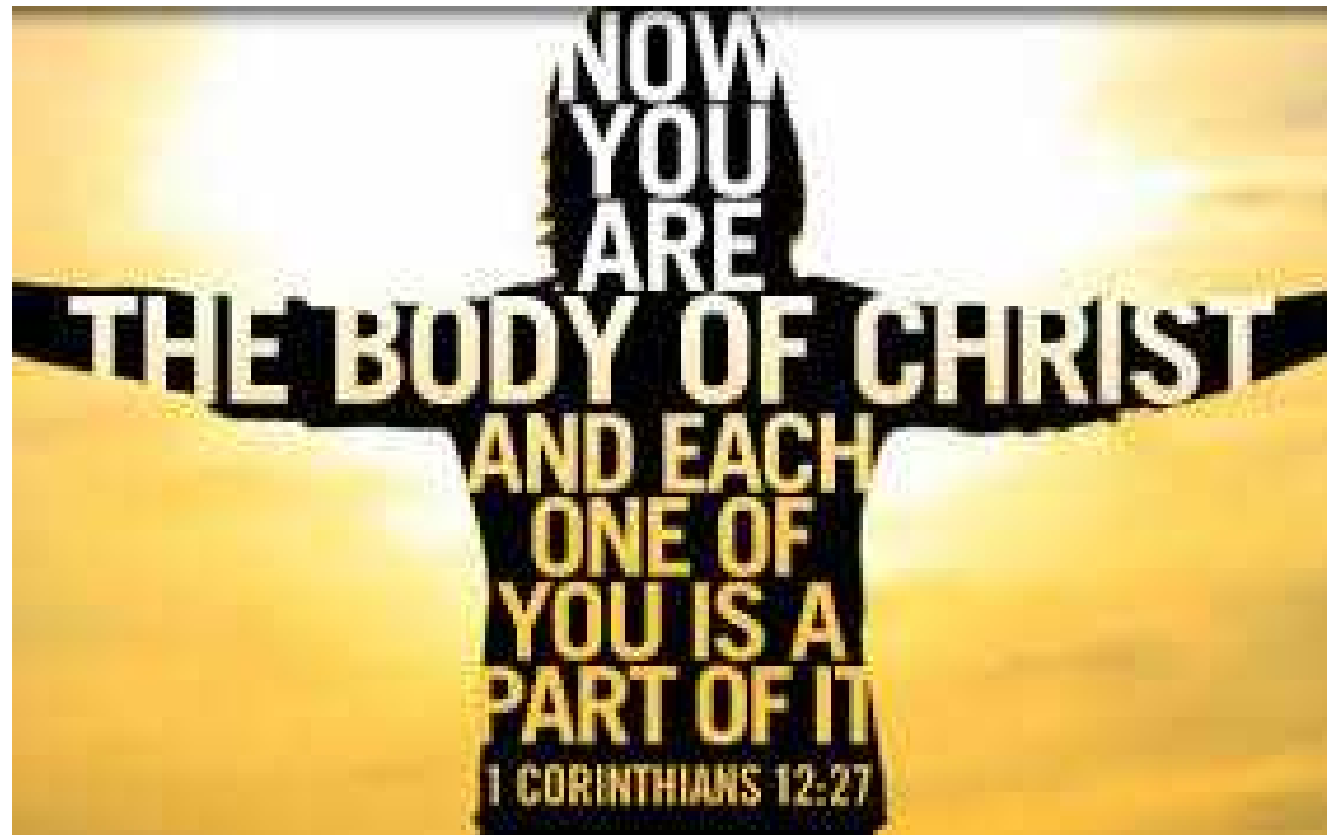




## ***Summary of this picture***

- *We have to respect order – we are not fit to govern if we do not have respect for due order.*
- *This means order in our conduct and our relationship to one another.*

## Picture 2 – the Body of Christ



## **Ephesians 1:22-23**

J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

**22-23** God has placed everything under the power of Christ and has set him up as head of everything for the Church. for the Church is his body, and in that body lives fully the one who fills the whole wide universe.

## **I Corinthians 12:12-13**

J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

**12-13** As the human body, which has many parts, is a unity, and those parts, despite their multiplicity, constitute one single body, so it is with the body of Christ. For we were all baptised by the Spirit into one body, whether we were Jews, Gentiles, slaves or free men, and we have all had experience of the same Spirit.



- *We are inter - dependent.*
- *Every member needs all the other members.*
- *None of us is independent; we cannot do without one another.*



## ***Summary of this picture***

- *Our function is to do the will of Christ with Him as the Head as we as the parts.*
- *We must recognise and appreciate our differences and corporately acknowledge our interdependence on one another.*
- *No such thing as a “lone-ranger” Christian!*

## Picture 3 – The Workmanship



## **Ephesians 2:10**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



## **Kehillah in Ephesus 2:10**

### **Orthodox Jewish Bible (OJB)**

**10 For we are His masterpiece, having been created in Moshiach Yehoshua for ma'asim tovim, which Hashem prepared beforehand, that the derech of our halakhah should be in them. [YESHAYAH 29:23; 42:7; 60:21;]**

- *The Greek word translated “workmanship” is poiema.*
- *The Latin version of Poema is the base for the English word Poem.*
- *We (the Church) are God’s Masterpiece(s).*



- *Michelangelo said: “Every stroke of the chisel reveals a little bit more of the plan”*
- *The more you cut away the better the overall vision of the masterpiece is revealed.*
- *When God is working in our lives the process might seem painful as he cuts away and shapes us but He is making and shaping His masterpiece.*

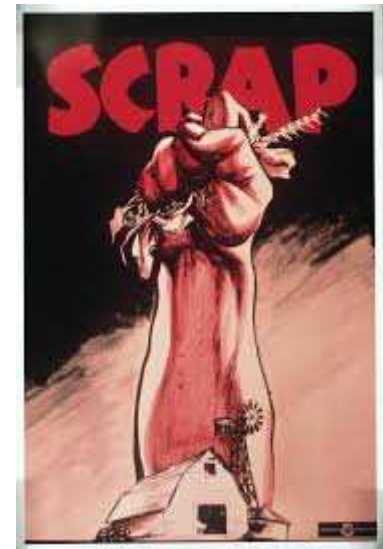


Where did God go for the material to make this creative masterpiece – His church?

He went to the scrap heap!

To the broken pieces of lives that had been marred by sin.

To the pile of broken families, sick bodies, and corrupt minds.




## **The Church demonstrates God's manifold wisdom to the entire universe**

### **Ephesians 3:10**

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

<sup>10</sup> His purpose was that all the rulers and powers in the heavenly places will now know the many different ways he shows his wisdom. They will know this because of the church.



It is amazing that God chose us, His redeemed people, to demonstrate His manifold wisdom to the entire universe – in time and eternity – and to the unseen heavenly realms.

The word “manifold” is very vivid – that Derek Prince translates as “many – sided”.

Each one of us demonstrates an unique part of God’s creative genius, and we all blend into a harmonious whole!



The main requirement of us as members of His poiema is YIELDEDNESS

If we are part of the marble in the sculpture then we just let Him chip away at us.

We don't argue to tell Him how to do it.

He will shape us into His marvellous work.



What does it require of us towards each other to be part of the poiema?

## MERGE- ABILITY

Word invented by Derek Prince to mean the ability to *blend* or be *cohesive* with others.

It is not what we are *individually* that is the most important thing, it is what we become *together* that is the final goal.





The essence is to be willing clay in the hands of a loving Potter.

## Picture 4: The Family



## **Ephesians 2:18-19**

### **Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)**

**18** Yes, through Christ we all have the right to come to the Father in one Spirit.

**19** So now you non-Jewish people are not visitors or strangers, but you are citizens together with God's holy people. You belong to God's family.





**God's family is determined by relationship  
to the Father.**

**Ephesians 3:14-15**

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

<sup>14</sup> So I bow in prayer before the Father. <sup>15</sup> Every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name from him.

**The Father is the source of very family,  
heavenly or earthly.**



A family is not a denomination or a label, nor is it an organisation or an institution.

We all share a common life. This is what bind us together – not denominations, doctrine, or labels.

**Our responsibility to our fellow believers is  
Love (agape – divine love)**



Love is more than giving someone a hug at Church.

It has to be cultivated and achieved – it is much higher than physical love, brotherly love or family affection.



## ***Summary of this picture***

- *We must obey the commands of our Father.*
- *Corporately we are commanded to love one another.*
- *As a family we have to accept one another.*

# Picture 5: The Temple





## **Ephesians 2:20-21**

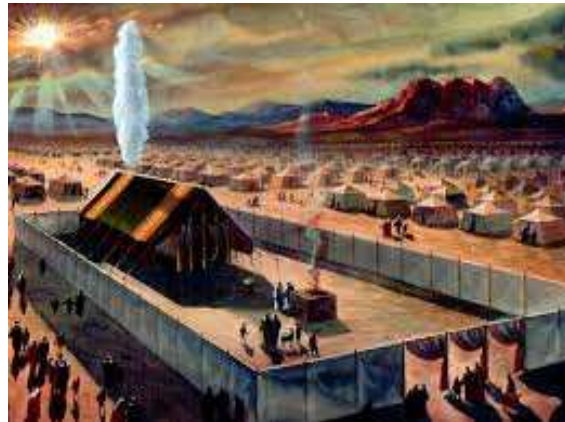
New International Version (NIV)

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

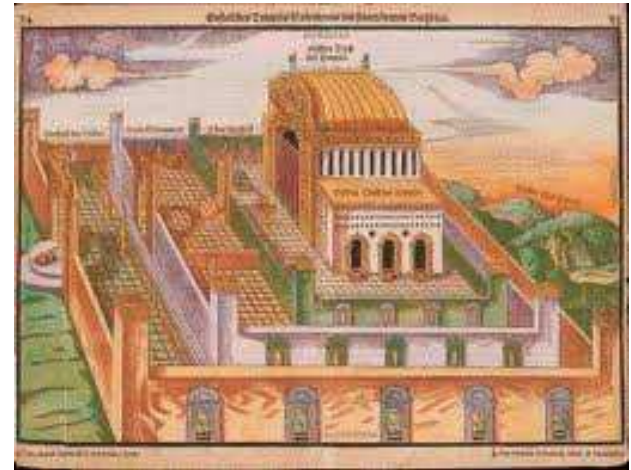
21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

# God has always required his people to provide him with a dwelling place

At Mt Sinai it was the  
Tabernacle



Back in the promised  
land it was the Temple  
of Solomon & then its  
replacement



# God has always required his people to provide him with a dwelling place

Today every believer has the privilege of providing his physical body to the Holy Spirit as a temple to dwell in.



God has always required his people  
to provide him with a dwelling place

God, through Jesus Christ, redeemed your  
body so that it might be a temple for His Spirit.



God has always required his people to provide him with a dwelling place

We are warned not to defile or destroy the temple. (we need to take care of our physical bodies).





## ***Summary of this picture***

- *We are the dwelling place for God.*
- *As living stones we are to be shaped and fitted, submitting to the discipline of God and to the ministries that God has placed on the Church.*

## Picture 6: The Bride





## Ephesians 5:25-27

New International Version (NIV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



Human History will come to a glorious climax with the marriage of the Church, the bride, to Jesus Christ, the bridegroom.

See Revelation 19: 6-8





## ***Summary of this picture***

- *We show the glory of Christ.*
- *Human history begins and ends with a marriage.*
- *Jesus demonstrated His unreserved commitment to us by totally giving of Himself on the cross.*

# Picture 7: The Army



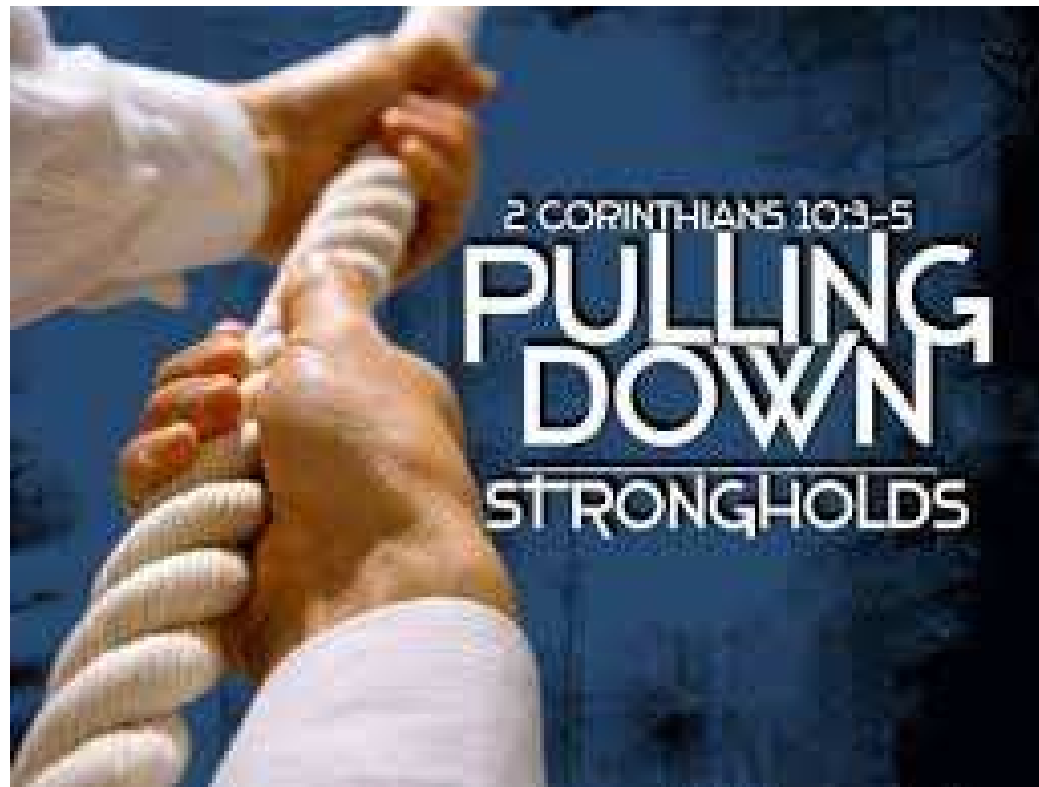


## **Ephesians 6:13**

New International Version (NIV)

**13** Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

We need to understand the weapons and battlefield of this spiritual conflict.



## 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,<sup>4</sup> for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but [a]divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> We *are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we *are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

# God has already won the victory



## **1 Corinthians 15:57**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



## ***Summary of this picture***

- *We are a demonstration of God's invincible power to manifest His victory!*
- *We are required to have personal military discipline.*





It may seem overwhelming to meet all these applications.

- Remember the keys to Transformation:
  - The mirror shows our condition
  - Yet as we continue to look into His word the Holy Spirit transforms us into what God wants to make us.
  - As we fall in love with Him, He will transform us into the true reflection of His true Church.