

II. “Seven Windows Looking at the Church” (Message by Pastor Parsons, 6/74)

God has given us seven pictures which portray or picture the New Testament Church in relationship to Himself. As we study these, let us rejoice in what God has done for us, uniting us with His Son in such a wonderful way!

A. Living Stones—Christ, the Chief Cornerstone

1. Israel had a temple in its midst, the place where God had promised to meet with His people.
2. The Church is to be a temple, a habitation of God. Believers are to be the blocks **formed** and **fitted** for God’s structure, interdependent with respect to one another, dependent with respect to the Living God.
 - a. 1 Peter 2:4-8 To whom coming, as unto a _____, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively (living) _____, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief _____, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the _____ which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a _____ of stumbling, and a _____ of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Know ye not that ye are the _____, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth _____ you? 17 If any man defile the _____, him shall God destroy; for the _____ is holy, which _____ ye are.
 - c. Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are _____ upon the _____ of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief _____, 21 In whom all the _____ fitly framed together groweth unto an holy _____ in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are _____ together for an _____ of _____ through the Spirit.

The stones for the building of Solomon’s temple were fitted and fashioned at the quarry that there be no sound in the building (1 Kings 6:7). God seeks to fit and fashion your life in the course of your daily life through His Word His Holy Spirit, and Providential circumstances that you make no noise when you assemble with the saints, that you rub none the wrong way, that you be prepared for your place in His Building now and forever.

B. Sheep with a Shepherd

1. Israel was to be the sheep of God’s pasture.
 - a. Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are _____, and the _____ of _____.
 - b. Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my _____; I shall not want.
2. Members of the Church are Christ’s sheep in this present day. The Holy Spirit opens the door to Christ Who becomes the Door of the Sheepfold, the Door to Life. He knows the sheep; the sheep know Him. He feeds the sheep; the sheep follow Him.
 - a. John 10:9 I am the _____: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find _____... 14 I am the good _____, and know my sheep, and am known of mine... 16 And _____ I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be _____ fold, and _____. 27 My _____ hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...
 - b. In John 10:11,14 our Lord is called the _____ Shepherd.
 - c. In Hebrews 13:20-21 He is called “that _____ Shepherd of the Sheep.”
 - d. In 1 Peter 5:4 He is called the _____ Shepherd.

The Shepherd’s delight is to feed. The sheep’s delight is to be led—anywhere, anyhow, anytime—if only it be the Shepherd Himself Who leads. Is following and feeding your delight, O Believer?

C. The Branches and the Vine

1. Israel was to be God’s choice vineyard. See Isaiah 5:1-7; Hosea 10:1-2, Matthew 21:33-44.
2. The Church now occupies that position as branches grafted into the Vine, having no roots in themselves, totally dependent on the Trunk, otherwise possessing no life. In union and communion with Christ there is fruit.
 - a. John 15:1 I am the true _____, and my Father is the husbandman... 5 I am the _____, ye are the _____: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much _____: for _____ ye can do _____...
 - b. Romans 11:12-25. We see the Church as a wild olive tree or branch grafted in contrary to nature.

As with salvation so with the exercise of salvation, the exercise of life, "without Him we can do nothing." How much is nothing? (Draw a circle and erase the line.) Are you able to rejoice in the fact that God alone can do anything of value in your life? He it is Who works in you both to will and to work, to desire and to do of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13, Galatians 5:22-25)! "None of self and all of Thee, O Lord."

D. The Kingdom and the King

1. Exodus 19:1-8. God's intent was to make the nation Israel a nation among nations, a peculiar treasure, a people for Himself, a kingdom of priests. In unbelief and rebellion they lost that privilege. God set them aside for a time (Romans 9-11) and yet Israel shall rise again. Israel shall yet have her glorious kingdom. God has not, will not forsake them. Isaiah 61. Romans 11:1-2.
2. Meanwhile God makes the Church a kingdom of priests after its great High Priest and King, Christ Jesus the Lord.
 - a. 1 Peter 2:5,9 Ye also, as lively (living) stones, are built up a _____, an _____, to offer up _____, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a _____, an _____, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.
 - b. Revelation 1:6 And hath made us _____ and _____ unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
 - c. See also Revelation 20:6; Hebrews 2:17, 3:1, 5:5,10; 7:26, 8:1.

We are seated with Him, our Great King-Priest—Favored! He is Lord!

"King of my life I crown Thee now!"

*"My heart shall know
No king but Christ Who loveth me so."*

Why call ye me Lord and do not what I say?

E. The Bride and the Bridegroom

1. Israel was known as the wife of Jehovah (Hosea 2—an adulterous wife, yet God will restore her forever). Praise God that He never divorces His own!
2. The Church through His death and resurrection has become His Bride.
 - a. Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become _____ to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be _____ to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have _____ you to one _____, that I may present you as a _____ to Christ. (Compare James 4:4,5).
 - c. See also Ephesians 5:24-26. Marriage for fruitfulness and fulfillment—the Church is to be presented to him alas without blame or shame, adorned in white linen.

*From heaven He came and sought her
 To be His holy Bride.
 With His Own blood He bought her
 And for her life He died. ---S.J. Stone*

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. Ephesians 5:33

F. The New Creation and the Last Adam

1. God promised Israel a new heart and a new spirit, taking away the heart of stone. See Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31; 36:26ff, etc.
2. The Church has become His new creation.
 - a. Romans 5:12. Wherefore, as by _____ sin entered into the world, and _____ by sin; and so _____ passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. See also the following verses.
 - b. Romans 5:19 For as by one man's _____ many were made sinners, so by the _____ of _____ shall many be made righteous.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the _____ of them that slept. For since _____ came death, by _____ came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in _____ all _____, even so _____ shall all be made _____. [See also verse 45-50]
 - d. 2 Corinthians 5:17 _____

In Adam we all die. our roots are no good, spoiled, contaminated with sin and death. We have a dreadful hereditary disease—sin. Christ died for our sins and arose again. (Hallelujah, 'tis done!) Christ Jesus is the first to be resurrected (the firstfruits of the new creation. Firstfruit means a promise of more to follow). He made possible the breaking of our ties with the old creation through death (Romans 7) and brings about a new relationship, the new creation, whereby all believers share the life of God. Ours sins forgiven we are quickened—No more sons of Adam, sons of God! Family.

- e. We are Born Again (1 Peter 1:23, 1 John 3:1-2); sons of God because of The Son of God. Christ is Perfect humanity representing the Father; believers are redeemed humanity representing Christ!

G. The Body and the Head

- 1. Israel was a commonwealth, an organization, a chosen group. See Deuteronomy chapter seven.
- 2. The Church is an organism, a living body sustained and kept by His Life. His life is vital to the Church. The Spirit of God is as blood, carrying the oxygen of heaven to each “cell” for nourishment and cleansing. The Church is one Body with members which are to harmonize and contribute one to another for the health of the whole Body and to represent the Head Who is in heaven. Each member is gifted for the benefit of the whole Body and for the expression of the Life of the Head.

a. **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** (12) For as the _____ is one, and hath many _____, and all the _____ of that one _____, being _____, are _____: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into _____, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the _____ is not one member, but _____... 27 Now ye are the _____, and _____ in particular. . .

b. **Ephesians 4:4-16** (4) There is _____ body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling... 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the _____, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole _____ fitly _____ together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the _____ unto the edifying of itself in love. (See also Colossians 1:18,19,24; 2:19; 3:15).