



Trinity Bible Church

Adult Sunday School

Biblical Metaphors for the Church

26-June-22

Outline

I. The Church

- ✓ Beginning of the Church
- ✓ The Local Church

II. Metaphors for the Church

- ✓ Family
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- ✓ Bride

III. The Church and Character of God

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Definition of Metaphor

- An image which suggests **similarities** between two different ideas, without implying that they are identical
- Metaphors can be divided into **four classes**:
 - I. Both ideas are in the **inanimate sphere**, such as the association of joy with light, and sorrow with darkness
 - II. An idea is taken from the **inanimate sphere to the animate**, *e.g.*, the term 'Rock' applied to God (frequently in the Psalms and elsewhere in the OT)
 - III. Both ideas are in the **animate sphere**, *e.g.*, the comparison of a man to a lion, bear, panther, dog or swine, serpent, eagle, raven, etc.
 - IV. An idea is transferred from the **animate sphere to the inanimate**, *e.g.*, 'the tops of the mountains' (Heb. 'heads'), and the 'face of the waters' (Genesis 1:2)



The Church

Beginning of the Church

- Christ's **Declaration** (*Matthew 16:18*)
- Church is the **Body of Christ** (*Ephesians 1:22-23*)
- **Baptism** of Spirit of God ➡ Church (*1 Corinthians 12:12-13*)
- **Birth** of the Church (*Acts 2:1, Acts 2:47, Acts 5:11*)



The Church

The Local Church

- Meaning of the Word Church (*Ecclesia*)
- Local Church and the New Testament
- Definition of a local Church (*S Lewis Johnson*)
 - I. Professing Believers
 - II. Meet Regularly in a specific Location
 - III. Oversight of Elders
 - IV. Serving with Deacons and Gifted Men
 - V. Observing Ordinances of **Baptism** and **Lord's Supper**
 - VI. Continuing in Apostles Doctrine



Metaphors for the Church

Family

- **Galatians 6:10**: “... to those in the household of faith”
- **I Timothy 5:1-2**: “Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort ...”
- **I Timothy 3:15**: “...conduct yourself in the **house of God**, which is the church of the living God ...”
- **I Peter 4:17**: “...for judgement to begin at the **house of God** ...”
- **Ephesians 2:19**: “...no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow **citizens with the saints** ...”



Metaphors for the Church

Body

- **Ephesians 1:22-23:** *22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and made Him head over all things to the church, 23 which is **His body** ...”*
- **Ephesians 5:28-32:** *“... no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as **Christ also does the church** ...”*
- **Romans 12:4-5:** *“...so we, who are many, are **one body in Christ**, and individually parts of one another.”*
- **Ephesians 4:16:** *“...proper working of each individual part, causes the **growth of the body** for the building up of itself in love.*



Metaphors for the Church

Temple

- **Ephesians 2:19-22:** “ ... in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy [b]temple in the Lord, ...”
- **1 Peter 2:5:** “⁵ you also, as living stones, [a]are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood ...”
- **2 Corinthians 6:16:** ¹⁶ Or what agreement does [a]the temple of God have with idols? For we are [b]the temple of the living God; just as God said,
 - “I WILL DWELL AMONG THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM;
AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.



Metaphors for the Church

Bride

- **Ephesians 5:23-27**: “...²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church ^[a]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; ...”
- **Revelation 19:7-8**: ⁷ Let’s rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His ^[a]bride has prepared herself ⁸ ...”
- **2 Corinthians 11:2**: ² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you *as* a pure virgin to Christ



The Church and Character of God

- Picture of Unity and Diversity of the Triune God
- Creation of God
- Majesty of God
- Earthly presence of God
- “*Center of Gravity*” for the people of God



Faithfulness and Practice

- Do not forsake the assembling together
- Your presence matters -- diversity of gifts
- We're a Family
- Unity matters
- Beacon of God

