

The **Church**

7. A Great Mystery

The **Church**

I will build My *ekklesia*

(Matthew 16:18)

The Church

...the mystery,
which from the beginning of the ages
has been hidden in God...

(Ephesians 3:9)

...the church, **which is His body**,
the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

(Ephesians 1:22-23)

Rome - AD 60

The Church

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone,**

*“Destroy this temple, and **in three days** I will raise it up.”*



in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into **a holy temple** in the Lord,



in whom you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God** in the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:19-22)

The Church

Previously:

...the church, which is **His body**...

...**the house of God**, which is the church of the living God...

Today:

*“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**.

(Ephesians 5:31-32)

The **Church**

- In the beginning
- A great mystery
- The final destination

The **Church**

- **In the beginning**
- A great mystery
- The final destination

The **Church**

So God created man **in His own image**,
in the image of God He created him;
male and **female** He created them.

(Genesis 1:27)

The Church

Then the LORD God said,
*“It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

(Genesis 2:18)

The Church

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,
and while he slept took one of his ribs
and closed up its place with flesh.

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man
He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said,

*“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”*

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother
and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

(Genesis 2:21-24)

The Church

Is it lawful
to divorce one's wife
for any cause?

“Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said,

‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

See Matthew 19:1-9

The **Church**

- In the beginning...
- **A great mystery...**
- The final destination...

The **Church**

The kingdom of heaven is like

a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son...

(Matthew 22:2-3)

The Church

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the wife
even as Christ is the head of the church,
His body, and is Himself its Saviour.

Husbands, love your wives,
as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her
by the washing of water with the word, so that
He might **present the church to Himself in splendour,**
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

See Ephesians 5:22-32

The Church

Husbands, love your wives,
as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her...

For no one ever hated his own flesh,
but **nourishes** and **cherishes** it,
just **as Christ does the church**,
because we are members of His body.

nourish: *ektrephō* =
to raise up to maturity
cherish: *thalpō* =
to warm, to brood

Genesis 2:24

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother
and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

**This is a great mystery,
but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

See Ephesians 5:22-32

The **Church**

This is a great mystery,
but I speak concerning
Christ and the church

*“It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

(Genesis 2:18)

The **Church**

This is a great mystery,
but I speak concerning
Christ and the church

His **love** meant that He gave Himself for the church...

- Our love leads us to give our hearts to Him...

His **purpose** is to sanctify the church to perfect beauty...

- Our goal is to be transformed into His likeness...

His **way** is to nourish and cherish the church...

- Our duty is to yield to Him in everything...

The **Church**

- In the beginning...
- A great mystery...
- **The final destination...**

The Church

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude...

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

*Let us **rejoice** and **exult** and **give Him the glory**,
for **the marriage of the Lamb** has come,
and His Bride has made herself ready.”*

It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” —
for the fine linen is **the righteous deeds of the saints**.

(Revelation 19:6-8)

The Church

And the angel said to me,

“Write this:

***Blessed are those who are invited
to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”***

And he said to me,

“These are the true words of God.”

(Revelation 19:9)

The Church

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying,

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

(Revelation 21:9)

The Church

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

And he carried me away in the Spirit
to a great, high mountain,
and showed me
the holy city Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
having the glory of God.

Its radiance was like a most rare jewel,
like a jasper, clear as crystal.

(Revelation 21:10-11)

The Church

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

It had a great, high wall, with **twelve gates**,
and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates
the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed.

And the wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them
were the twelve **names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

(Revelation 21:12, 14)

The **Church**

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

John expects too see a bride but sees a city!

Not any city!

He sees JERUSALEM!

The Church

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

Jerusalem

For the LORD has chosen Zion;
He has desired it for His dwelling place:

***“This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.***

The Lord Himself
wants this!!

*I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.*

*Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.”*

(Psalm 132:13-16)

The Church

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

The city of the great King

(Psalm 48:2)

His throne
is here

Of the increase of His government
and of peace there will be no end

(Isaiah 9:7)

The Church

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

...**male and female** He created them.

And God blessed **them**. And God said to **them**,

*“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth
and **subdue** it, and **have dominion...**”*

(Genesis 1:28)

Then the LORD God took the man
and put him in the garden of Eden
to tend and keep it.

(Genesis 2:15)

It was all *very good*...

The **Church**

“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

Why Jerusalem?

The city of the great King

(Psalm 48:2)

Of the increase of His government
and of peace there will be no end

(Isaiah 9:7)

The **Church**

Therefore...

The Church

Therefore...

Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Therefore...

I feel a divine jealousy for you,
since **I betrothed you to one husband**,
to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve
by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray
from **a sincere and pure devotion to Christ**.

(2 Corinthians 11:2-3)

The **Church**

Therefore...

So now abide

- **faith**
- **hope** and
- **love**

these three;

but **the greatest of these is love.**

(1 Corinthians 13:13)