

# New Way of Living

STUDIES IN GOD'S WORD  
TO STIMULATE GROWTH

## 10 Christ and His Church (Part two)



## Bible Studies

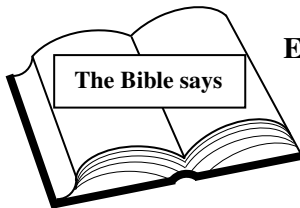
### Introduction

**1Cor 12:12** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

The message of the above verse of scripture insinuates every member of the body is important and necessary to others.

### Why the Church Meets Together:

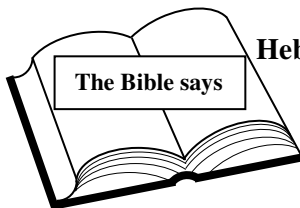
The church meets together, because in doing so, we meet with the Lord, He is there Jesus is in the midst (Matt 18:20). The Lord, following, bringing Israel out of Egypt, commanded Moses to build a Tabernacle. The Tabernacle foreshadowed the church with the three "I wills" spoken by the Lord applicable to the church:



**Exodus 25:22** And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which *are* upon the ark of the testimony, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

- (1) I will meet with you
- (2) I will commune with you
- (3) I will give you commandment: That is: "Make known My will and thoughts to you."

1. We are commanded to assemble together.



**Heb 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

See also: Heb 12:23; Isa 45:20; 65:8.

The Lord Jesus, while on earth set an example to all that follow of faithful assembling:

**Luke 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

His "custom," - His way of life; habit or manner of life.

**It is not only good manners to be where we ought, but wise and of great benefit to habitually assemble after the example of Jesus, with the attitude of the Psalmist:  
Psalm 122:1 . . . . I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

2. We should assemble to expose our lives to leadership ministries, whom Christ has given for the purpose of:

**Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**  
**:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

- Perfecting His church
- To do the work of the ministry
- To edify the body of Christ (The church).

**For God to accomplish this in our lives, we must be willing and teachable to the instruction brought to us in accordance with Scripture.**

4. To experience and enjoy congregational worship, worshipping God in spirit and in truth, involving:
- Raising of our hands
  - Clapping
  - Dancing
  - Music
  - Shouting
  - Praising God with our voices
  - Singing
  - Marching
  - Celebrating

See: John 4:24; Heb 2:12.

5. To receive the blessing of the communion, partaking of the bread and the cup in remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

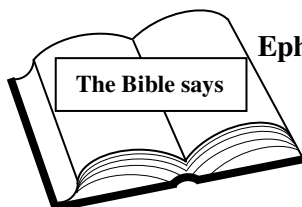


**Matt 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.**

- :27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;**  
**:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**  
**:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**

See also: 1Cor 11:23-33

6. To minister life, blessing and support of other members of the body of Christ:



**Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

**Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.**

7. To join in congregational prayer. That is participating and supporting of others in prayer to the Lord.

As personal prayer is your communication system connecting you with the Lord, so is it in congregational prayer. It is the church operating corporately its communication system with the Lord:

**Phil 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

- Prayer: Worship. Prayer to God is to be with hearts of an atmosphere of worship.
  - Supplications: To make petition (See also 1John 5:15).
  - Thanksgiving: Thanking the Lord for past answered prayers and in faith present requests.
  - Requests: A thing asked for.
  - Intercessions (1Tim 2:1). To stand between someone and God, making request of God for God to give answer as requested. This kind of prayer may be personal or corporate.
8. To influence (your) children in the Christian life that they may come to a personal faith through fellowship, Christian education and church activities.



9. To be trained in matters of faith, established in Christian principles and church life so as to be founded upon the Word, equipping you in all that is necessary to make you a good witness before God and the world. Jesus, in one of His appearances following His resurrection to His disciples, gave the following commandment, which has its fulfillment in local church life:

**Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

**:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.**

### **The Headship of Christ:**

**Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God (Eph 1:20-22).**

**Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence (Eph 5:23).**

It is evident by the above scriptures; there are two positions of Christ for us to observe:

#### **1. Christ in Heaven:**

Christ is in heaven with the Father, where He represents us before the throne as He who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification. Paul the apostle explains (Rom 4:25) John in his first Epistle speaks of Jesus as our “advocate.” That is, Christ comforts us in our weaknesses, while, as our representative before the Father, He stands advocating our forgiveness and continued redemptive benefits.

**1John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

**:2 And he is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**

#### **2. Christ in His People (You):**

That is, Christ indwells in you cohabitating with your spirit to guide you into all truth involving the will of the Father. In this way, Jesus represents the Father to you.

**Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

**:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

### **Christ's Position and Authority:**

Christ's Position and Authority is described as the "Head" over His church and is realized both personally and corporately.

**Personally:** That is, Christ in you as Lord over your life. As Lord, Christ is the governing influence and guide in the realms of your body, soul and spirit

See: 1Cor 6:20; 1Thess 5:23.

**Corporately:** As Lord over His church:

- Christ is in each member of the assembled body, the church, in unity of the Spirit and in their place of function (Eph 4:3).
- Every member assembled under the guidance of God's given leadership, inspired of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:11; Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17).
- Everyone assembled and part of the order and arrangement of services. That is, a structure allowing expression that the Holy Spirit is able and happy to inhabit, inspire and anoint. The principle expressed by Paul is applicable more so to the Holy Spirit who literally beholds us in assembly: **Col 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.**

**What Christ is in Heaven in position over His church, He is in His church in function.**

### **Leadership and Their responsibility:**

Leadership of the local church has a responsibility in the church to do two important things:

1. Continuously look to Christ through prayer and searching His Word that by revelation and inspiration, they may endeavor to accomplish His will through their leadership (Acts 6:4).
2. Continually draw the attention of the people to Christ and the Word, exhorting them to prove all things by prayer and the Word and to hold fast that which is good.

### **Pictures of the Church:**

- There are numerous pictures of the church throughout the Bible, but Paul in his Epistle to the Ephesians emphasizes seven that are worthy of considering in the context of this study. The following is a brief appraisal of each that may be expanded by yourself considering the verses of scripture associated with each:
- Each of the following pictures of the church has five individual characteristics that reveal the full extent of their influence on the believer's faith and life.

#### **1. The Church as the Body of Christ (Eph 1:20-23):**

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- It is with the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 1:20-23).

The Picture of Christ:

- Christ is the head (Eph 1:23; 4:15; Col 1:18).
- Raised from the dead (Eph 1:20).
- Exalted (Eph 1:20-21; Phil 2:9-11).

The nature of the relationship:

- Jesus is the Saviour of the body (Eph 5:23).
- Perfection (Eph 4:12, 13).
- Fitly joined together (Eph 4:16).
- Made one (John 17:21).

The nature of the components:

- Every part (Eph 4:16).
- Members of His body (Eph 5:30; 1Cor 12:12-13).
- Members in particular (1Cor 12:27).
- Many members (1Cor 12:12).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

- Speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15).
- Resurrection life (Phil 3:10).
- Edifying of its self in love (Eph 4:16).
- Word made flesh (John 1:14).
- In the last days: Preach the everlasting Gospel (Rev 14:6).

## 2. The Church as the Commonwealth of Israel (Eph 2:11-19):

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- It is with the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 2:13).

The picture of Christ:

- Greek, the Christ (Eph 2:12). Hebrew, the Messiah (Dan 9:25).
- The "Sacrifice" - His blood (Eph 2:13).
- Our peace (Eph 2:14).
- Israel (Hosea 11:1; Matt 2:15; Isaiah 49:3).
- The church, under the New Covenant is the Israel of God.

The nature of the relationship:

- Reconciliation, Jews and Gentiles in one body (Eph 2:16; 3:6).
- Access to the Father by the Spirit (Eph 2:18).
- Fellow citizens (Eph 2:19).
- A holy nation (1Pet 2:9).
- The Kingdom of His dear Son (Col 1:13).

The nature of the components:

- Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:14). Note the word "both" – Eph 2:14, 16, 18.
- Quickened (regenerated) (Eph 2:5; Tit 3:5).
- Saved (Eph 2:8).
- One new man (Eph 2:15).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

- Jews and Gentiles in unity (Eph 2:14). No middle wall between us.
- Peace. Jews and Gentiles together under the New Covenant (Eph 2:14-15).

## 3. The Church as the Temple (Eph 2:20-22):

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- With the Son (Eph 2:20).
- With the Father (Eph 2:22).
- With the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:22).

The picture of Christ:

- The High Priest (Heb 3:1) and Sacrifice (John 1:29; Heb 9:12, 23-28).
- The Living Stone (1Pet 2:4):
- The Tried Stone: (Isa 28:16):
- The Stone rejected (Matt 21:42):
- The Precious Corner Stone (Isa 28:16):
- A Stone of Stumbling, and a Rock of Offense (1Pet 2:8):
- The Headstone (Psalm 118:22; Matt 21:42):

The nature of the relationship:

- Holy (Eph 2:21).
- Filled with Glory (2Chron 5:14).

- Reconciliation of the sanctuary (Holy Place) with the Most Holy Place (Eph 2:16; Lev 16:20).

The nature of the components:

- A Spiritual house (1Pet 2:5).
- Lively (living) stones (1Pet 2:5).
- A holy priesthood (1Pet 2:5).
- A kingdom of priests (Rev 1:6; 5:10; Ex 19:6).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

- Holiness (Eph 2:21).
- Offering up spiritual sacrifices (1Pet 2:5; Heb 13:15; Rom 12:1).
- Shewing forth the praises (virtues) of Him that has called you (1Pet 2:9).

#### 4. The Church as the Family (Eph 3:14-20):

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- It is with the Father (Eph 3:14).

The picture of Christ:

- The Son of God (Eph 3:14).
- The first born of many brethren (Rom 8:29).
- The Son of God (Luke 3:22). God's representative before man.
- The Son of man (John 1:51; 3:13). Mans representative before God.

The nature of the relationship:

- Adoption (Eph 1:5).
- A new name (Rev 2:17).
- Heirs with Christ (Jam 2:5; Tit 3:7; Gal 3:29).
- Rooted and grounded in love (Eph 3:17).
- Filled with the fullness of Christ (Eph 1:23; 3:17).

The nature of the components:

- Dear children (Eph 5:1; 1:5).
- Sons/ daughters of God (2Cor 6:16-18).
- Children of light (Eph 5:8; 1Thess 5:5;
- Family orientated (Psalm 68:6; 107:41).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

- Submission (Eph 3:14).
- Walking worthy of the vocation (Eph 4:1).
- Lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:2-3).

#### 5. The Church as the Perfect Man (Eph 4:12-13):

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- It is with the Son, the man Jesus (Eph 4:13).

The picture of Christ:

- The perfect man (Eph 4:13).
- The Son of God (Eph 4:13).

The nature of the relationship:

- Perfection (Eph 4:12; Heb 6:1-3).
- A perfect Man (Eph 4:13).
- The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13).
- From whom the whole body is fitly joined together (Eph 4:16).

The nature of the components:

- Saints (Eph 4:12).
- Perfect, Eph 4:12. That is: Gr, Katartizmos: Completely restored, repaired, life now in order, made complete from the ravages of sin (2Cor 13:9).

- Perfect, Eph 4:13. That is: Gr, Complete in mental and moral character; mature, of full age and stature.
- Joints (Eph 4:16).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

- Doing the work of the ministry (Eph 4:12).
- Edifying the body of Christ (Eph 4:12).
- Unity of the faith (Eph 4:13; Rom 10:17).
- Speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15).
- In understanding – men (1Cor 14:20).

## 6. The Church as the Bride of Christ (Eph 5:24-33):

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- It is with the Son (Eph 5:30-32).

The picture of Christ:

- Saviour of the body (Eph 5:23).
- The Bridegroom (implied) (Eph 5:32; Joel 2:16; Matt 25:1-13; Psalm 45:10-17).
- Loves His church (Eph 5:25).
- Our redeemer (Eph 5:25; Ruth 4:1-13).

The nature of the relationship:

- Marriage (Eph 5:31).

The nature of the components:

- We are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones (Eph 5:30).
- Compatible (Eph 5:30)
- Glorious (Eph 5:27).
- Subject unto Christ (Eph 5:24).
- Sanctified, cleansed (Eph 5:26).
- Without spot, wrinkle, but holy, without blemish or any such thing (Eph 5:27).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

- Made herself ready (Rev 19:7).
- Man child born (Rev 12:5).

## 7. The Church as the Army (Eph 6:10-18):

The churches relationship with the Godhead:

- It is with the Son (Eph 6:10).

The picture of Christ:

- The Lord (Eph 6:10).
- Captain (Heb 2:10).
- The Word of God (Rev 19:13).

The nature of the relationship:

- Military i.e. soldiering (2Tim 2:3).
- Strong (strength) (Eph 6:10).
- White horse (white symbolizes righteousness) (Rev 6:2; 19:11).

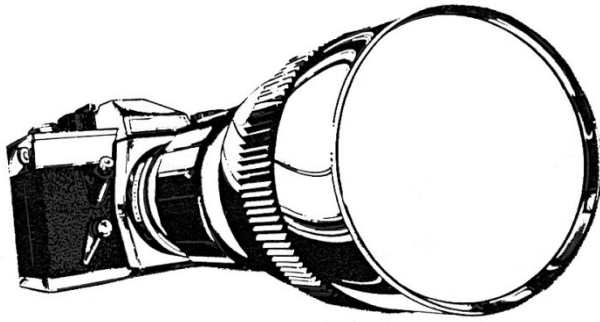
The nature of the components:

- Soldiers (Eph 6:10-18; 2Tim 2:3-4; Rev 19:11-15).

The fruit or manifestation in the believer's life:

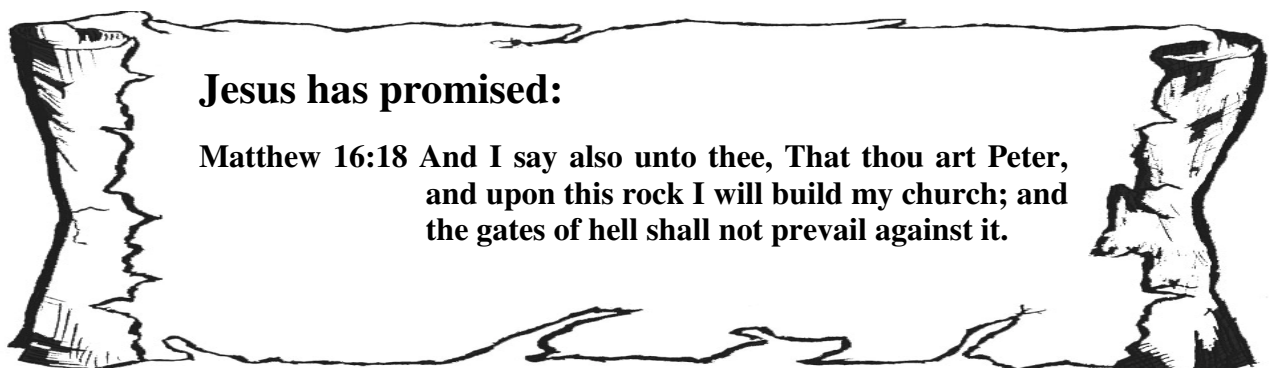
- They have their armour on (Eph 6:11-17).
- Prayerful (communication system working) (Eph 6:18).
- In war, they fight a good warfare (1Tim 1:18-19).
- Holding faith and a good conscience ( 1Tim 1:16; Eph 6:16; Rom 1:17).

We are to develop our relationship with Christ and His church in each of the pictures of the church.



*A focus on some points that  
we may get the picture*

1. We demonstrate, God has added us to the church by faithful assembling in the place where He has planted us.
2. Who Jesus “is,” and what He meant by “church,” He wants you and I to clearly understand.
3. The church is to be seen and understood in its local and universal dimensions.
4. The church is the focal point for Christians to gather to and for it to be effective in its ministry in its locality; its members must be committed.
5. The church is found in types and shadows in the Old Testament, realized in the New Testament.
6. There is a difference between being gathered and being assembled.
7. Every believer in Christ needs the local church for the benefits and opportunities it provides.
8. Every Bible based church is indigenous and autonomous in its government.
9. The local church supports itself through the faithful giving of tithes and offerings by its members (people).
10. Jesus Christ is the head of His church and His headship is to be expressed in and through each local church’s government.
11. What Christ is in Heaven in position over His church, He is within His church functionally.
12. Considering the seven pictures of the church seen in the Epistle to the Ephesians, Christ desires us to be established in the truth of each, doctrinally and functionally.



**Jesus has promised:**

**Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**