

## IMAGES OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

**John 10:30 14:9-10**

**Introduction:** Jesus often used parables to help people understand spiritual truths and when Jesus spoke of God, the Heavenly Father, Jesus went on to say that if they saw Him (Jesus), then they saw God the Father because Jesus and the Father were "one." To help Christians better understand how they (the Church) and Jesus are related, the Bible gives several comparisons:

### **I. THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP (*John 10:7-16*)**

1. Jesus is the **appointed way** to God. (O.T. prophecies)
2. Jesus is the **true** shepherd, going before His sheep and no other voice will His sheep hear.
3. Jesus is the **door** for His sheep, the doorway into saving grace.
4. Jesus, as shepherd, provides salvation, freedom from the law, and total provision for His sheep.  
- All other shepherds are but hirelings and not as concerned as He is for His sheep.
5. The sheep **know one another** in a oneness of understanding through their shepherd.
6. There is only **one** flock and each individual sheep came into the flock the same way, regardless of any previous worldly standing. All are on equal standing in the flock.

### **II. THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES (*John 15:1-8*)**

1. There is an unbroken relationship of the believer and Jesus.
2. Through the union of the believer and Jesus, joy and fellowship with God is experienced as well as bearing fruit for Him.
3. There is a **oneness** as the vine and its branches are one.

### **III. THE CORNERSTONE AND THE STONES OF THE BUILDING (*Ephesians 2:19-22*)**

1. Each believer is dependent upon the other. If a single stone is removed, the entire structure is weakened.
2. The entire building rests and depends completely upon Jesus Christ, the cornerstone.
3. The building is the **temple of God** because the Holy Spirit indwells each stone.

### **IV. THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE KINGDOM OF PRIESTS (*Hebrews 8:1-6*)**

1. The believer is identified with Jesus (the High Priest) in His activities: as a living sacrifice who offers him/herself in worship to Christ, and is privileged to pray directly to the Father.
2. The believer will share in all of Jesus' glory because of the partnership in Jesus' ministry.
3. The priesthood of the believer has been bestowed through God's grace.

**V. THE HEAD AND THE BODY WITH IT'S MANY MEMBERS (*Ephesians 2:13-22*)**

1. As the human body, so the church body is self-developing. God has given responsibilities to each member, some to equip, some to lead, some to evangelize, but all to witness.
2. *1 Corinthians 12:4, 11*, every member has something to do.
3. Although composed of many races, gifts, etc., the body is **one** in purpose and principle.

**VI. THE LAST ADAM AND THE NEW CREATION (*1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 42-49*)**

1. In a resurrected human body, Jesus Christ was the first of a new creation.
2. Believers are not the same, as they have been adopted into God's family, citizenship transferred to heaven from earth, justified before God, qualified to share in Jesus' glory, eternally redeemed, and will have a body like that of Jesus.
3. A new day of commemoration established. No longer the Sabbath as law ordained, but the first day of the week, the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead.
4. A final transformation is to take place. A release from the Old Sin Nature, occupation of a place being prepared for the believer, in heaven, also a new body to be given to each believer.

**VII. THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE BRIDE (*Revelation 19:7-9*)**

1. The most revealing figure of intimacy of the relationship between Christ and His Church.
2. Christ's love and faithfulness for and to His Church is revealed.
3. The authority and position which the believer shall have in heaven is revealed.

**CONCLUSION;**

1. The Church, composed of believers called Christians is an elect company called out from Jews, and Gentiles to be forever with Christ in His highest glory.
2. Every believer will equally share in all that Jesus is and has because of Jesus' love for His Church.
3. ***"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord, She is His new creation, by Spirit and and the Word...with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died..."***