CHRIST and the CHURCH

Bro Peter | Ephesians 5:32

"This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one." - NLT

This mystery [of two becoming one] is great; but I am speaking with reference to [the relationship of] Christ and the church." - APM



Ephesians 5:32

The central theme of the book of Ephesians is the UNITY OF THE CHURCH, especially between the Jews and the Gentiles Believers.

This can be seen by some repetitive words or phrases such as "together" and "one" (UNITY).



Gathered Together - 1:10

Raised / Sitting Together - 2:6

Quickened Together - 2:5

Built Together - 2:22

One New Man - 2:15

One Body - 2:16

One Spirit - 2:18

One Hope, One Lord.
One Fnith, One Baptism.





The City of Ephesus



- Ephesus was the capital city of a Roman province in Asia.
- Ephesus was a significant center of trade.
- Ephesus was also the location of the great temple of Artemis, or Diana, Craftsmen sold shrines and household images of the goddess.



You are greatly influenced by your surroundings or the people around you, leading to Paul's introduction for the church to follow God's example and Christ's pattern of love.



1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as <u>Christ loved the church</u> and gave himself up for her



Ephesians 5:1-2, 25

A. The Pattern for the Church.

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



B. The Light of the Church: The Church cannot shine without Him.



This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."





C. The Love of the Church.

Ephesians 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ephesians 5:29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—

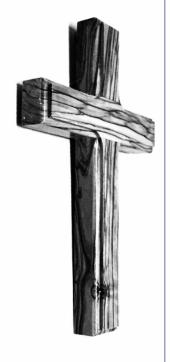




C. The Love of the Church.

1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.





D. The Authority of the Church in Prayer.

Ephesians 5:20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.





E. The Object of our WorshipNot Any Man.

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



F. The Head of the Church.

Ephesians 5:22-24

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

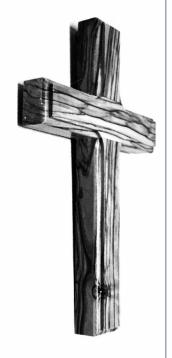




G. The Saviour of the Body (Church).



For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.





The scripture speaks of "Salvation" in three tenses.

- 1. Past (Ephesians 2:8)
- 2. Present (Philippians 2:12)
- 3. Future (Romans 13:11)

These are summarised as:

- 1. Justification
- 2. Sanctification
- 3. Glorification





Past - Forgiveness of sins and justification by God.

Ephesians 2:8

"For it is by grace <u>you have been saved</u>, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God".





Present - Sanctification - Set apart to him and for him.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."



Present - Sanctification - Began at new birth.

1 Corinthians 1:2

"To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours"





Present - We are sanctified through His Word daily.

John 17:17

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth"





Future - Glorification

Romans 13:11

"And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed".





The Greek word translated as "church" in the New Testament is ekklesia-a called-out assembly".





A. Dear Loved Children.



Ephesians 5:1

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children



B. God's Holy people.



Ephesians 5:3

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.



C. Light of the World.



Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light



D. The Pillar and the Foundation of the Truth.

1 Timothy 3:15

if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.





E. Members of His body - the Vine and the branches.



He will feed us; He will prune us and He has our best interest.

Ephesians 5:30

for we are members of his body.



E. Members of His body - the Vine and the branches.



John 15:1-4

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a]takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

E. Members of His body - the Vine and the branches.



John 15:1-4

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.





Hosea 1:2-3

2 "When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord."

3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son".





Hosea 2:5-8

5 Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.'

6 Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.





Hosea 2:5-8

7 She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.'

8 She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold which they used for Baal.





Hosea 3:1-3

1 The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels[a] of silver and about a homer and a lethek[b] of barley.





Hosea 3:1-3

3 Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you."

Christ is the model of the church; we are to emulate him.

Christ is the meal of the church; we are to feed on him.

Christ is our Saviour, Sanctifier and Soon coming King

(our complete Salvation).

† CONCLUSION

Christ is the husband of the church; we are to submit to him.

Christ is the Love of the church; we are to return to him.



Hosea did not divorce gomer just like God did not divorce the Israelites, however, he rebuked them and restored them (Hosea 2:6-10, 14-15). Christ will not divorce the church, he will rebuke her, love her, cleanse her and keep chasing after her.





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