

Metaphors of the Church ~ "The Christ"

Introduction: There are four major metaphors in the Bible concerning the Church. These metaphors are representations of different aspects of the Church, emphasizing different and sometimes similar characteristics of the Church. These characteristics may be temporal or eternal, the context in which they are found will determine.

The four major metaphors concerning the Church are: The Shepherd and a Flock of Sheep, the Vine and the Branches, the Temple of God, and the Christ (the Head and the Body of Christ, *i.e.* "the New Man"). Today we will return our attention to studying "the Christ". The Christian is to embrace what he is, and what he shall be by the Grace from God.

I. The Christ - General Overview – Eph. 1:22-23

- A. The Christ is Christ Jesus the Head and the Church His body, Eph. 1:22-23; cp. 1 Cor. 12:12-13.
- B. The Christ is the New Man – The New Creation, Eph. 2:15; 2 Cor. 5:16-17.
- C. The Body of Christ grows, Eph. 4:14-16.
- D. The Christian will come to be of the stature of the fullness of Christ, Eph. 4:13.

II. The Christ – The New Man

- A. The New Man is essential for the Christian's three tenses of salvation:
 - 1. The New Man and Christian Initial Salvation
 - a. Imputed out of the "Old Man" and into the "New Man": Rom. 6:1-6; 5:12-21; Gen. 1:27; Eph. 2:1-5
 - b. Trespasses Forgiven: Eph. 1:7
 - c. Sin Forgiven: Col. 1:14, 2:18
 - d. Put on Christ as clothing: Gal. 3:27
 - 2. The New Man and Christian Present Tense Salvation
 - a. Access to the Heavenly Father while not under Law: Eph. 2:14-18; Gal. 4:1-5

b. To mentally put on Christ: Col. 3:9-10; Eph. 2:10, 4:24

c. Victory over temptation from lusts of:

- The Flesh: Rom. 6:8-13
- The Devil: Eph. 6:10-18
- The World: Gal. 6:14

d. Christian Good Works: Eph. 2:10

e. Reconciliation: 2 Cor. 5:16-17

3. The New Man and Christian Future Tense Salvation

a. The complete man: Eph. 4:13

b. Authority Over All Previous Creation: Heb. 2:5-9; 1 Cor. 6:3

B. The New Man is “The New Creation”

1. All Things New – 2 Cor. 5:16-17

- New in Kind: Eph. 2:15; 4:24
- New in Time: Col. 3:9, 10

2. The Son of God is the Creator – John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Eph. 2:15

- **Potentially Created** in the mind of God in the Decree by the Father and Son: Eph. 1:4, Heb. 13: 20, 21.
- **Initially Created** by imputation in the mind of God through Spirit baptism into the Christ, after the Ascension of Christ Jesus, on the Day of Pentecost: Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 11:15-17; Gal. 3:26-29.
- **Completely Realized** at the Rapture (snatching away) of the Church: Rom. 8:23-25; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

3. The “Old Creation”:

- Spirit Beings, Job 38:7; Col. 1:16-18
- The heavens and the earth, Gen. 1:1
- Animals, Gen.1:20-25
- Man, Gen. 1:26, 27, 2:7, 15-25.

4. The “Future Creation” of the New Heavens and the New Earth: 2 Pet. 3:13
5. The Mystery Concerning The New Man, The New Creation:
 - Fellow Heirs: Eph. 3:6
 - A New Race: Eph. 2:14

III. The Body Belonging to The Christ The Functioning of Spiritual Gifts

- A. The relationship of function under the Head – Christ Jesus: Col. 1:18
- B. The relationship of function member to members: 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Rom. 12:3-8
- C. The relationship of function for edification of members by love: Eph. 4:11-14
- D. The relationship of function on earth till the Rapture, Eph. 4:13

IV. The Body Belonging to The Christ Becomes The Bride

- A. The relationship of the Body being Espoused to Christ: 2 Cor. 11:2
- B. The relationship of the Great Mystery Concerning Marriage: Eph. 5:25-33
- C. The Marriage of The Lamb: Rev. 19:7
- D. The Rule and Reigning With Christ: 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 4:8; Rom. 8:17-25
- E. The Mystery concerning the heading up of all things by the Christ: Eph. 1:10-11

V. The Bride of Christ Becomes the Wife of the Lamb

- A. The Wife of the Lamb being Espoused: cp. Matt. 1:18-20
- B. The Wife of the Lamb at the Marriage Feast: Rev. 19:7
- C. The Wife of the Lamb in the Realized Kingdom from the Heavens: Rev. 21:9
- D. The Wife of the Lamb in eternity: Rev. 21:1-8; cp. 2 Pet. 3:9-13

Conclusion: The Christ, the New Man has a gracious function on earth, in the heavens, in time, in eternity!