

BIBLICAL METAPHORS (Continued...)

✠ **The Temple of God**

- ↪ "A temple is a place in which God, who dwells everywhere, localizes Himself in one particular place where His people may always find Him **'at home.'**" ³ (Exodus 25:8; 1 Kings 8:27)
- ↪ As God dwelt in the tabernacle and temple, so He now lives, by His Spirit, in the church (1 Peter 2:4-6; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
- ↪ In this spiritual temple Christians, **as priests**, offer up spiritual sacrifices – sacrifices of prayer, praise and good works. ⁴
- ↪ Biblical Components of the Temple:
 - ☆ A Solid Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20).
 - ☆ A Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20-21; 1 Peter 2:6-7).
 - ☆ Living Stones (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:21-22).
- ↪ We are the temple of the **Holy Spirit!** (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19) [**hieron** – whole temple / **naos** – the inner sanctuary]



✠ **A Plethora of Other Metaphors**

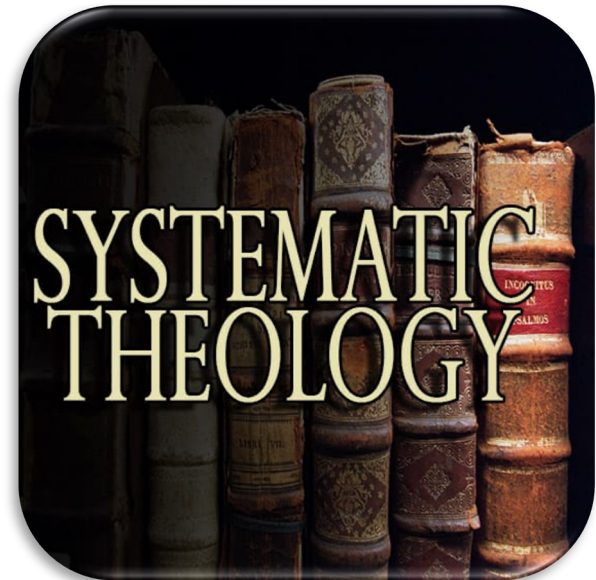
- ↪ Branches of the true vine (John 15:1-8)
- ↪ An olive tree (Romans 11:17-24)
- ↪ A field of crops (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)
- ↪ A building of God (1 Corinthians 3:9, 16f.; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Timothy 3:15).
 - ☆ "We are his house" (Hebrews 3:6).
 - ☆ "With Jesus Christ himself viewed as the 'builder' of the house" (Hebrews 3:3).
 - ☆ "The church is also viewed as 'a pillar and buttress of the truth' " (1 Timothy 3:15). ⁵
- ↪ A flock (John 10:1-18; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25). ⁶
- ↪ A harvest (Matthew 13:1-30; John 4:35). ⁷

THE JOURNEY

Assembly of God

MESSAGE GUIDE

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: February 18, 2024

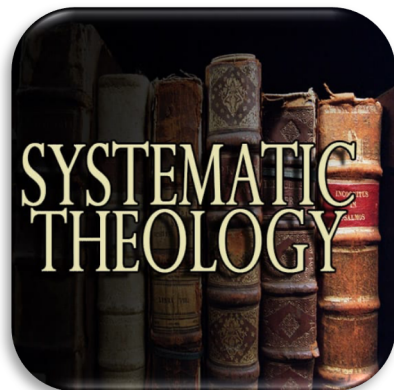


Message Talk Sheet

Date: February 18, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

SERIES: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
FOR DAILY LIVING



"A Practical Look at the Study of God & Elements of Biblical & Spiritual Truth"

Today's Message:

ECCLESIOLOGY (Part 6)

The Doctrine of the New Testament Church:

The Nature of the Church

[Part D – "It's Character: Biblical Metaphors Applied to the Church" Lesson #2]

Scriptures: Luke ??????

ECCLESIOLOGY ~ "The Doctrine of the New Testament Church"

Review:

✘ What the Church IS and IS NOT.

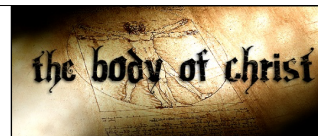
- ↪ The Church is not synonymous with Israel.
- ↪ The Church is not synonymous with the Kingdom of God.
- ↪ However, She is a vital part of the Kingdom of God.

✘ Biblical Metaphors:

- ↪ The Kingdom of God / The Kingdom of Heaven (Mark 4:30; Luke 13:18).
- ↪ The Family of God (1 Timothy 5:1-2; Matthew 12:47-50; 1 John 3:14-18; Ephesians 3:14; 2 Corinthians 6:18)
- ↪ The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:24f., 32; 2 Corinthians 11:2; James 4:4; Revelation 19:6 – 20:6; 21:2; 22:17; John 3:29).



BIBLICAL METAPHORS



✘ **The Body of Christ**

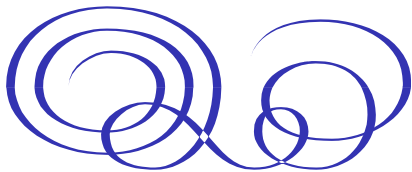
- ↪ A Favorite Metaphor of the Apostle Paul (Romans 12:4; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:22f.; 3:6; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:23, 30; Colossians 1:18, 24; 2:19; 3:15).¹
- ↪ This metaphor gives us a tangible picture of what the Church is designed to be – A Body / An Organism.
 - ☆ The Body is **a Unit**, Made up of **Many Parts** (1 Cor. 12:12-13).
 - ☆ The Spirit works in all of them for the common good (1 Cor. 12:4-7).
 - ☆ Therefore, there should be no division in the body (1 Cor. 12:25; Romans 12:5).
- ↪ The **unity** of this Body indwelt by the Holy Spirit is a divine mystery. Some keys to this unity are:
 - ☆ Loving one another – we are told to increase in this love.
 - ☆ Humility – not thinking more highly of ourselves.
 - ☆ Serving one another – putting others before yourself.
 - ☆ Self-sacrifice – as Jesus gave us the ultimate example.
- ↪ There is a necessary **diversity** if the body of Christ is to function properly.²
 - ☆ "Now the body is not made up of one part, but of many" (1 Cor. 12:14-26). [e.g., foot, hand, ear, eye, nose...]
 - ☆ "Each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function." (Romans 12:4). [e.g., prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, mercy...]
- ↪ Jesus is the **Head** of the Body – The Head of the Church.
 - ☆ Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Colossians 2:18-19



APPLICATION:

“Each of the metaphors used for the church can help us to appreciate more of the richness of privilege that God has given us by incorporating us into the church.”

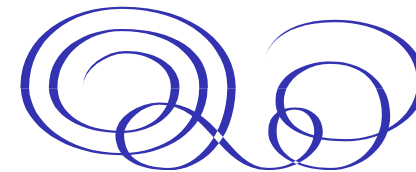
- ✘ “The fact that the church is like a family should increase our love and fellowship with one another.”
- ✘ “The thought that the church is like the bride of Christ should stimulate us to strive for greater purity, holiness, love for Christ, and submission to him.”
- ✘ “The image of the church as branches in a vine should cause us to rest in him more fully.”
- ✘ “The idea of an agricultural crop should encourage us to continue growing in the Christian life and obtaining for ourselves and others the proper spiritual nutrients to grow.”
- ✘ “The picture of the church as God’s new temple should increase our awareness of God’s very presence dwelling in our midst as we meet.”
- ✘ “The concept of the church as a priesthood should help us to see more clearly the delight God has in the sacrifices of praise and good deeds that we offer to him (see Heb. 13:15–16).”
- ✘ “The metaphor of the church as the body of Christ should increase our interdependence on one another and our appreciation of the diversity of gifts within the body.”⁸



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✘ MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- ❑ **Find My Place in the Family of God** ~ By opening my heart to Jesus, being born again, and accepting my place in His family as a son or daughter of God.
- ❑ **Appreciate My Role in the Body of Christ** ~ By recognizing God's intention for every member of His Body to have significance, to serve in a vital role, contributing to the whole.
- ❑ **Appreciate the Role of others in the Body of Christ** ~ By looking around, taking note of the role others are serving in the Body of Christ, and supporting them in it with sensitivity and love.
- ❑ **Dedicate Myself as a Temple of the Spirit of God** ~ By opening my heart to the fullness & baptism of the Holy Spirit; By diligently pursuing a clean and holy life surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus and the promptings and convictions of the Holy Spirit.



¹ Dusing, Michael L., and others, eds, *Systematic Theology* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994), 534.

² Dusing, Michael L., 534-535.

³ Pearlman, Myer, *Knowing The Doctrines of the Bible* (Springfield, MI: Gospel Publishing House, 1937, 1981), 348.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Dusing, Michael L., 538.

⁶ Thiessen, Henry C., Revised by Vernon D. Doerksen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949 – Revised in 1979, Reprinted February 1989), 312.

⁷ Grudem, W. (2020). [*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*](#) (Second Edition, p. 1052). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

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