

REVIEW

FLOCK OF SHEEP

Good shepherd - Jesus

Sheep - those whom Jesus saves; as a flock - a congregation/church

Shepherds, who work for Jesus to do what is good for the sheep -
elders/pastors/bishops

With Jesus as the Good Shepherd, ministers of the word as the shepherds,
Christians as a flock of sheep will be protected from wolves.

TEMPLE

1 Peter 2:4-7 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, (5) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (6) Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. (7) Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Head of the corner (chief foundation stone) - Jesus

Lively stones; a spiritual house - Christians

Ephesians 2:17-22 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. (18) For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (19) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, (21) in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (22) in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Chief cornerstone of the foundation - Jesus Christ Himself

Temple being built - Christians/saints

How were they built into a temple - preaching (Eph 2:17)

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. (10) According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. (11) For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. (14) If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (16) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (17) If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Foundation - Jesus

Builders - first God; then also apostle and other ministers of the word

Temple being built - Christians

With Jesus as foundation stone, ministers of the word as builders, Christians as lively stones will be built up into a temple for the Holy Spirit.

Application:

May the Lord bless you in whatever you are building in this world.

-house; business or career; family

But don't let such temporal things you are building take your love away from the spiritual thing that God is building.

In this world, things get unbuilt; get torn down; get damaged or destroyed.

-actual buildings, as happens in fires or in war zones

-institutions, as universities, governments,

-a business or career or job

-even a family

May it be that whatever in this life gets damaged or destroyed, your joy, your peace, your first love, are not those things that can get unbuilt in this world, but Jesus Christ and His church, with you and others as the lively stones, and the ministers as the builders working for God. Jesus Christ said that He is building his church, and the very gates of hell will not prevail against it.

HUMAN BODY

Romans 12:4-5 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: (5) So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Members of the Body - Christians

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. (28) And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Members of the Body - Christians

Certain members - ministers of the word

Ephesians 4:11-16 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: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (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.

Head of the Body - Christ

Members - Christians

Means by which members are fitted, joined, supplied - ministers of the word

With Jesus as Head, ministers as joints, members grow from weakness into maturity.

SUMMARY

Flock: Jesus is The Good Shepherd; Christians are the sheep (a congregation is a flock); ministers of the word are the shepherds

Temple: Jesus is the chief foundation stone; Christians are the living stones; ministers of the word are the builders

Body: Jesus is the head; Christians are the members; ministers are what fits, joins, and supplies the members

FOURTH THE TWO STATEMENTS COMBINED WITH THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE AND EXPOUNDED

- I. FIG. The Head Provides the Necessary Nourishment to the Parts of the Body
4:15b-16 "Christ, from whom"
LIT. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Gives The Word of God to His Individual Saints
4:11 "He gave"
 - A. The Lord Jesus Christ is above all things for the church, as the head is above all things for the body
 - B. He is able to supply what we need, and He is willing to supply what we need, and He is faithful to supply what we need
 - C. What we need is the word of God, the bread of life
 - D. We need to hear the law of God, the commands of Christ, that we may be made aware of our sinfulness and need for salvation
 - E. We need to hear the gospel, that we may be brought to repentance from sin and faith in Christ, and that we may be kept in the faith to the end, with a sure hope in the return of Christ and our resurrection from the dead to be with Him forever

- F. We need to hear the law of God, the commands of Christ again, that we may know what it is to love God and to love people, to be taught to obey everything that the Lord Jesus has commanded

II. FIG. The Parts of the Body Are Joined Together

4:16 joined and knit together OR joined and held together

LIT. The Individual Saints Are Joined into the One Church

4:12 for the perfecting of the saints

- A. You may have this word in your translation as “to equip” or “to prepare.”

Please see that this is not necessarily the right translation of that word.

1. “To equip” or “to prepare” is not an old, well-established translation, but is a 20th-century innovation
 - a) 1568 Bishop’s Bible - To the gathering together of the saintes
 - b) 1587 Geneva Bible - For the repairing of the Saintes
 - c) 1611 King James Version - For the perfecting of the saints
 - (1) This translation prevailed for a long time, and is still in some of the translations today
 - (2) Listen to someone from the 1600s explain what he understands the KJV to mean by “to perfect the saints” (James Ferguson 1621-1667)
 - (a) to perfect them, that is, to bring them out of that disorderly, disjointed, and confused . . . condition wherein they are, and to fix them in a well-ordered, compact, spiritual frame and state, which is attained when they are joined to Christ by faith, and one to another by love
 - d) 1885 Revised Version - for the perfecting of the saints
 - e) 1901 American Standard Version - for the perfecting of the saints
 - f) The translation did not become “to equip the saints” until the 1946 Revised Standard Version of the NT
 - g) The ESV says “to equip the saints.” The ESV is a revision of the RSV!
 - h) The 1971 NASB picked up “equip” but put in the noun form “the equipping of the saints”
 - i) The 1974 NIV used “to prepare God’s people”

- B. See what a right translation would be

1. Directly from the scriptures
 - a) 1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **perfectly joined together [ESV united NIV perfectly united]** in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- b) Ephesians 4:16 joined and knit together ESV, NIV joined and held together NIV
 - 2. From an earlier generation: 1600s
 - a) John Trapp (1601-1699): for the jointing of them whom the devil hath dislocated
 - b) Matthew Poole (1624-1679): the knitting together and compacting them more and more, both in nearer union to Christ their Head by faith, and to their fellow members by love
- C. The right concept being, then, that the body is “joined and held together”
 - 1. fitted and joined
 - 2. knit or held
- D. I urge you, then, whether your translation says “prepare” or “equip” or “perfect,” that you understand the meaning to be “joining and holding together”

III. FIG. The Joining Together Is By the Joints OR At the Joints

4:16 joined and knit together through every joint

LIT. The Joining of the Saints Into the One Church is Done Through the Ministers Christ Gives

4:11 apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints

- A. we are joined to
 - 1. Christ through faith in Him: How did we come to know of Him and believe on Him?
 - 2. we are joined to one another through love
 - a) how did we come to love one another?
 - b) how do we grow in love for one another?
- B. we are made to fit; and we are actually connected
- C. of course it is not ONLY these certain kinds of ministers that do any of this work of joining the saints together

1. they do it publicly and officially and primarily
2. any Christian may do it privately and unofficially and secondarily
 - a) let a wife ask her husband at home
 - b) let the grandmother and mother teach Timothy the scriptures from his earliest childhood
 - c) yet consider that what they are teaching came through the apostles and prophets in the first place!

IV. FIG. The Joints Also Carry Nourishment to Every Part

4:16 through every joint of supply, according to the effective working in the measure of every part

LIT. The Ministers Christ Gives Work to Serve Every Saint the Word of God from Christ

4:12 for the work of the ministry

A. how did the nourishing word of God come to us?

1. not directly, but through the ministers Christ gives

B. Do you object that you do not need pastors and teachers; you can get your nourishment directly from the Bible

1. okay, the bible came through the apostles and prophets
2. did you really come to where you are with no influence of a pastor?

C. do you object to this doctrine of the Word of God being served to you by mere men rather than receiving it directly from Christ?

1. do you object to receiving your food that way?
2. do you object to receiving your clothing that way?
3. do not object to receiving your nourishment in the Word of God that way

V. FIG. When Every Part Is Nourished, the Body Is Edified (Caused to Grow)

4:16 causes growth of the body, the edifying of itself in love

LIT. When Every Saint Receives from Christ the Word of God, the Whole Church Is Edified (Built Up)

4:12 for the edifying of the body of Christ

CONCLUSION

The Head Provides the Necessary Nourishment to the Parts of the Body

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Gives The Word of God to His Individual Saints

The Parts of the Body Are Joined Together

The Individual Saints Are Joined into the One Church

The Joining Together Is By the Joints OR At the Joints

This Joining of the Saints Into the One Church Is Done Through the Ministers Christ Gives

The Joints Also Carry Nourishment to Every Part

The Ministers Christ Gives Work to Serve Every Saint the Word of God from Christ

When Every Part Is Nourished the Body Is Edified (Caused to Grow)

When Every Saint Receives from Christ the Word of God, the Whole Church Is Edified (Built Up)