

## LESSON 17

# The Church - Similarities

**Objective** : To help the pupils learn the similarities of the church, God's plan through them, and also to submit according to the will of God.

**Bible Portion** : Eph. 2:15-22, 1 Cori. 12:11-28  
Eph. 5:25-32

**Memory Verse** : Eph. 2:20-22

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Built on the foundations of the Apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple of the Lord.

### Introduction:

Did Jesus tell many parables of the kingdom of God? (Mt. 13, 2, 5). The epistle also describes some similies through which the nature, importance and duties of the church are mentioned. It is very pleasing and brings knowledge when we learn them.

### Similies used for the church

#### 1. Temple of God - Building

In the Bible, the temple of the God is compared to a building. Let us examine how the temple is related to a church.

- a. **Plan** : As a plan is formed before building the church, God had made a clear plan for the church even before the foundation of the world (Eph. 2:3-6).

- b. **Expense** : In the Old Testament time, many materials were used to build tabernacle and temples of God. It is noteworthy that the expense for the New Testament is the blood of Jesus Christ (Act. 20:28, 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
- c. **Foundation** : The church is built on the chief cornerstone ie., Jesus Christ. Apostles and prophets are the foundation stone joined with chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20, 1 Pet.2:4-7)
- d. **Builders** : The church is being built by God, the Holy Spirit and the minister of the church. We are God's co-workers (1 Cori. 3:8-9; Eph. 2:22). The work began at the day of Pentecost is still continuing. How for you are enthusiastic in the building of the church ? Examine the self.
- e. **Worship** : From the Old Testament temples, a fragrant incense was always being risen. Acceptable offerings were done there. In the New Testament the prayer must be come out in the form of fragrance. We must be a living and holy sacrifice. Don't forget to praise God always (Rom. 12:1, Eph. 5:18-20). The church is built so that God dwells in it (Eph. 2:22). The church is the living institution where the holy God dwells.

### **The body**

The church is portrayed as the body of Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:23, 1 Cori. 12:13-27. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church. Jesus is the head and believers are the body. Believers have two folded relationship. Firstly, as the organs of the body of Christ, they are under unity, love and communion. Secondly, as the organs of the same body, believers are inter-related. They are one in Jesus Christ. They share Happiness and sorrow in the same way.

### **3. The Bride**

The church is compared to a bride who has been submitted to a bride groom, ie., Jesus Christ. (2 Cori. 11:1-3, Eph. 5:23-32). It shows the infinite love of Christ towards the church, Christ's love is wonderful to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Secondly it shows the church's

thankfulness to Christ. Christ has chosen us his bride, and by his blood, we redeemed us from sin, death and Satan. The bride who is submitted to the bridegroom must only thinking about himself. Satan and the world together will try to deviate the bride from the aim. The church must not fall in the strategies of Satan. The love of Christ is great and no one can separate us from the love of God.

#### **4. Household**

The church is described as the household of God. Eph. 2:19, 3:14. In house, the parents and childrens live together in love and obedience. In such a way, in the household of God (the Church), the children must obey the father in everything and the brothers must love each other. The children in a family vary from age to age. Their age and growth are different from each other. So, the church also has members having difference in spirituality and age. They are brothers in Christ. They must accomodate each other.

#### **5. The Sheep :**

Many times in Bible, the church is pictured as the sheep and Christ as the shepherd. Lk. 12:32, Act. 20:21, Jn. 10:1-16, 1 Pet. 5:2-4, Ps. 23:1-6. Jesus, the good shepherd, give his life for us (Psalms 22). The great shepherd nourishes, guards and punishes us if necessary. Christ will appear soon as the great shepherd, and he will collect all his sheep, the holymen and console them. The sheep must follow the voice of the shepherd, and they must love and obey, him and live according to his words.

#### **6. God's Garden or Field**

1 Cori. 3:9, Jn. 15:1-16, songs Solomon 4:12-16. The gardener keeps the plants and flowers safely. So God also takes care of us and makes us grew. Church as the garden bears good fruits to the owner, the Lord (Jn. 15:16). The garden must be walled and separate from the sin and the world. It must be for the owner. Beside, it bears good fruits and gives fragrance.

#### **7. The light**

Jesus said that he is the light of the world and whoever follows him walks not in the darkness but have the light of life (Jn. 8:12). The church

is the light the world as it follows the very light of Jesus (Mt.5:14). You are the light of the world. As the moon reflects the light of the sun and brightness the darkness in the earth, the church brightens its light to the sinful world.

### **8. The Pillar and foundation of the Truth**

1 Tim. 3:15 Pillars upholds the building. In early days, the proclamations of kings and advertisement were pasted and engraved stones. Foundation is laid to strengthen the building. Here, we can understand the duty of the church. The church has to uphold the eternal truth in every sense. The church should proclaim and nourish it

The Holy Spirit has revealed us the generations and responsibilities of the church through certain similes. In the light of this revelation, we must submit ourselves in the presence of God.

### **Questions**

1. Compare the church with a building ?
  2. Explain the relationship between believers as church is the body of Christ ?
  3. What Christ did and does as the bridegroom of the church ? What will he do next ?
  4. Explain the duties of the church as a bride to Christ, the bridegroom ?
  5. How is the relationship between the believers in the church as household ?
  6. Christ is told as shepherd. How far it is right?
  7. What are the plants in the church? What is their duties ?
  8. 'I am the light of the world' 'You are the light of the world' How these saying of Jesus can be compared ?
  9. The church is named as the pillar and foundation of the truth. How far the statement is appropriate for the church ?
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