



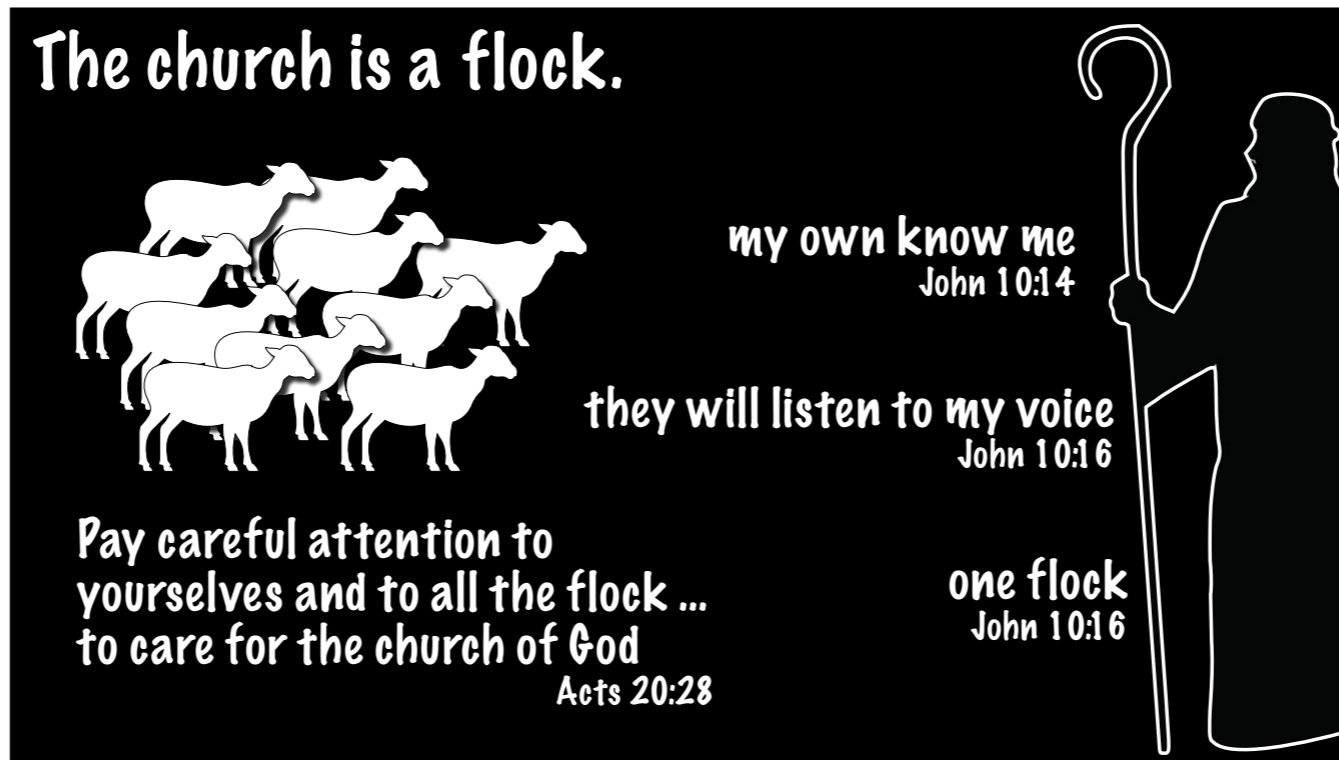


- The church of Christ, an assembly of believers who belong to Christ, is very special.
- To help us understand the church, Paul would use various figures to help us understand God's purpose and plan for his people
- Especially easy to see in his teachings to the Ephesians (Acts, Ephesians)
- Why?
- how do they help us understand our relationship?
- how do they help us to grow in Christ and build each other up?



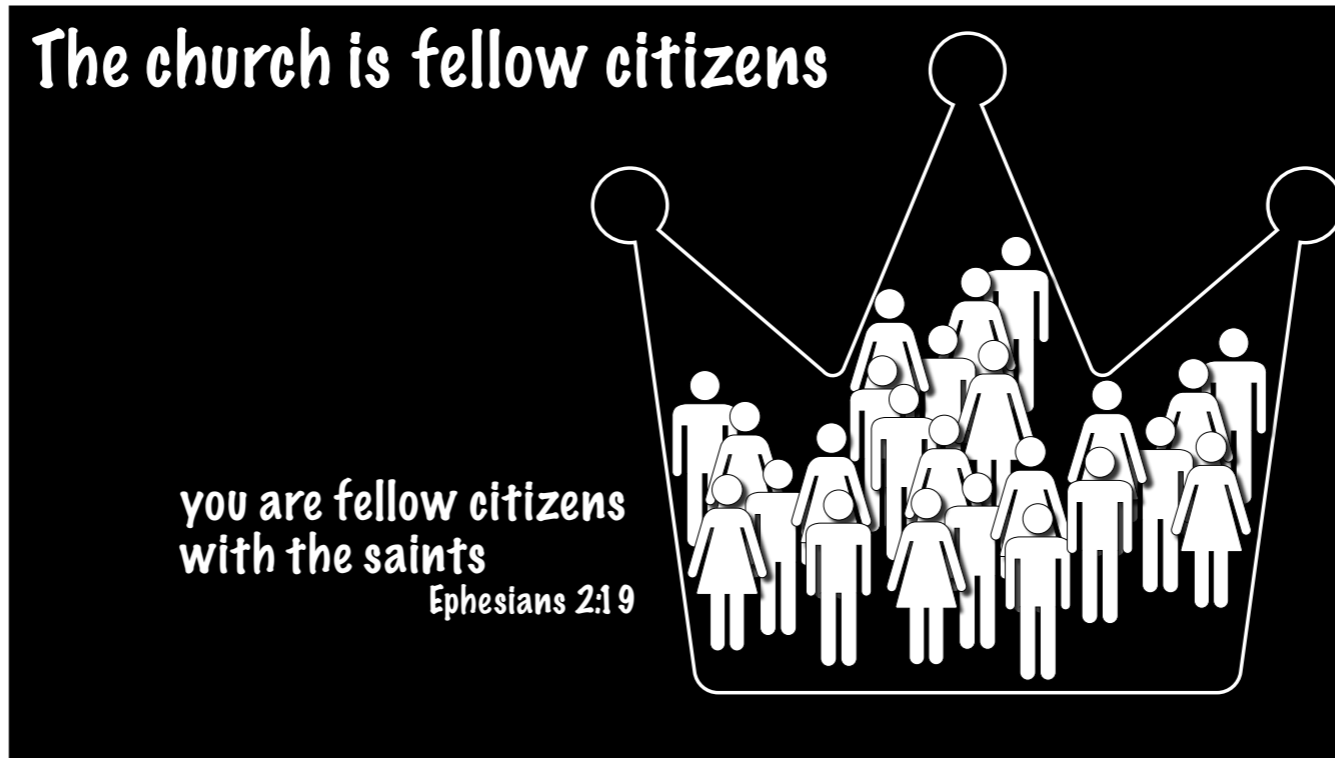


- Ephesians 2:16-22 (ESV) 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- Start in Acts 20



- Acts 20:28-32 (ESV) 28 Pay **careful attention** to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **care** for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- Shepherd: Christ
  - my own
  - know me
  - listen (follow willingly)
  - unity
- many sheep, one flock





- Ephesians 2:19: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
  - Fellow-citizens (Kingdom)
- Jesus is our king, he has authority.
- We are members of a special nation and people.

## The church is an household

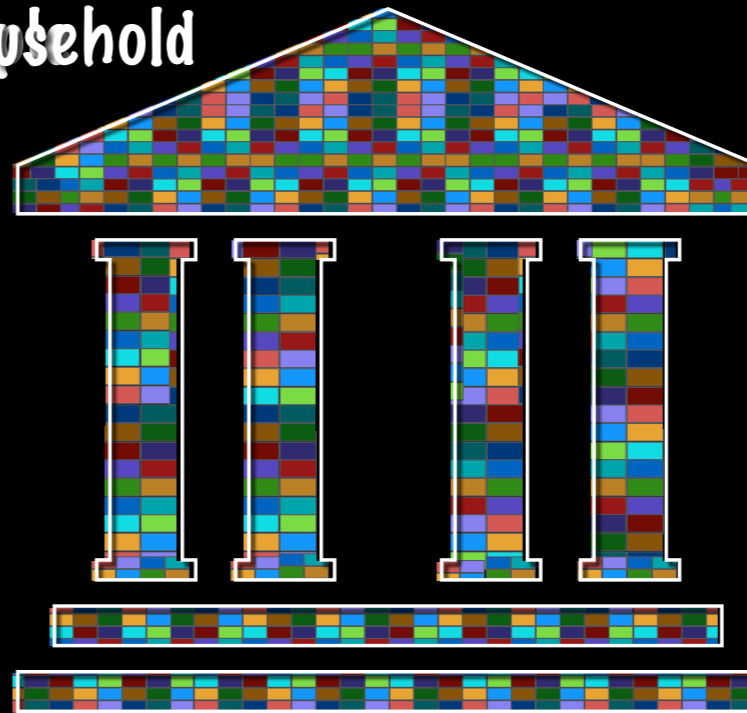


- Ephesians 2:19: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**,
  - Household (Family)

# The church is an ~~household~~ household

Grows into a holy temple  
in the Lord

Ephesians 2:21



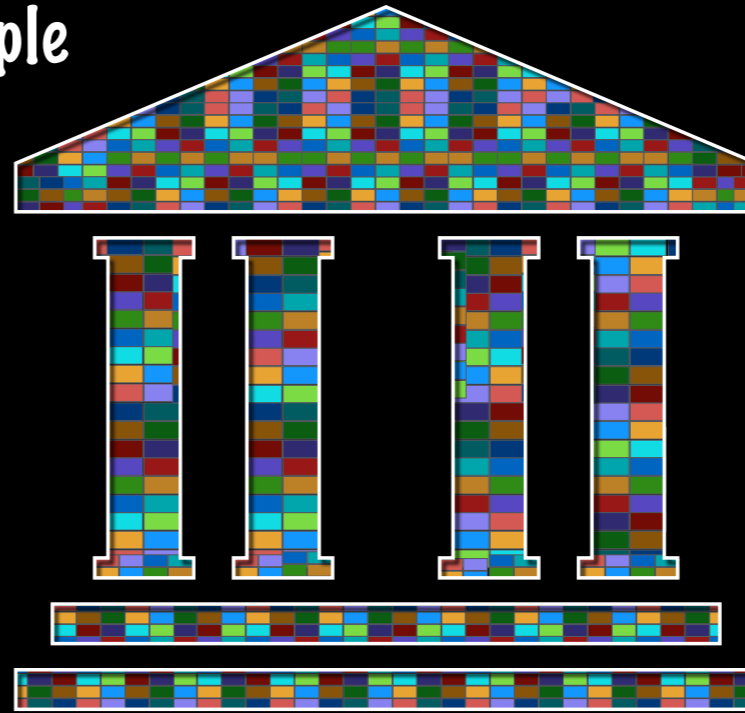
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# The church is a temple

Grows into a holy temple  
in the Lord

Ephesians 2:21

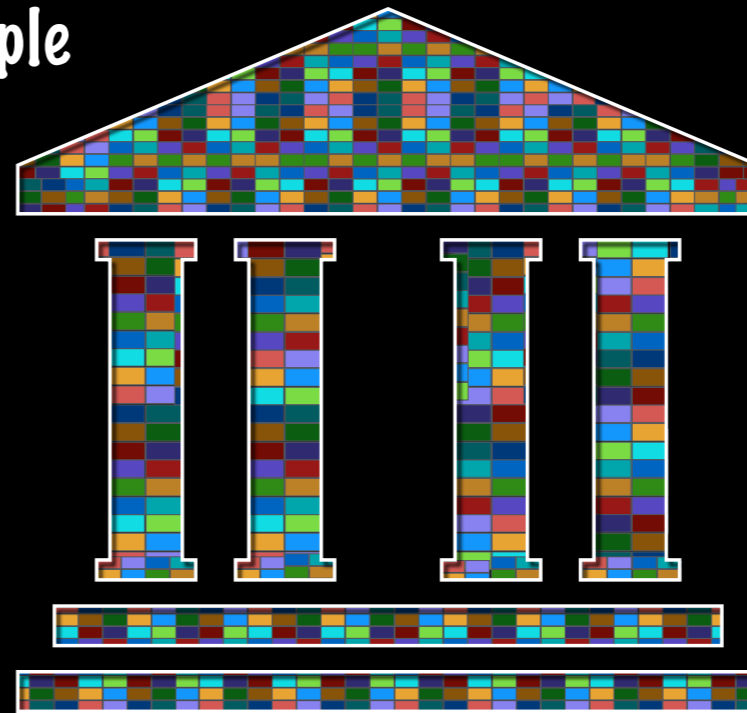


- foundation - apostles and prophets
- chief corner stone - Jesus

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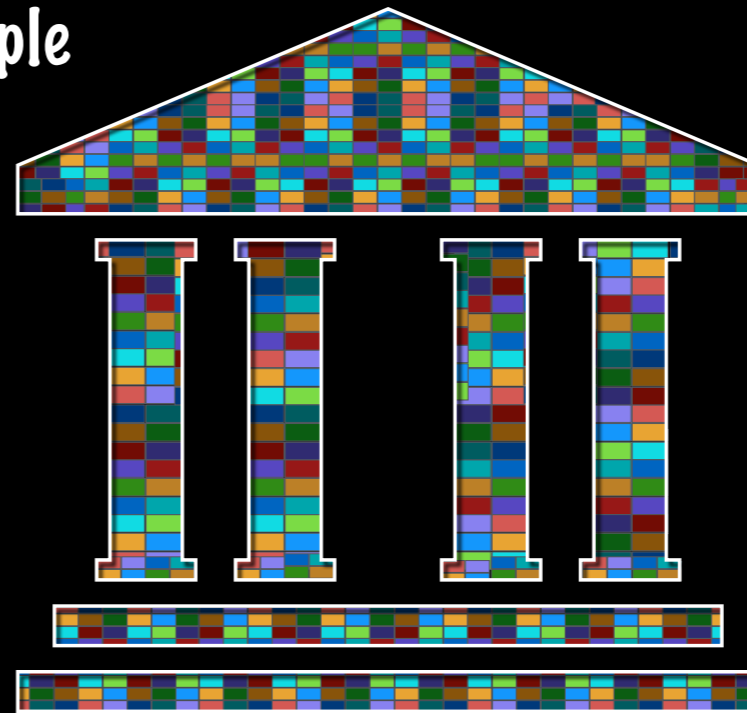


- 1 Peter 2:4-7 (ESV) 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 **you yourselves like living stones** are being **built up as a spiritual house**, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

# The church is a temple

Grows into a holy temple  
in the Lord

Ephesians 2:21



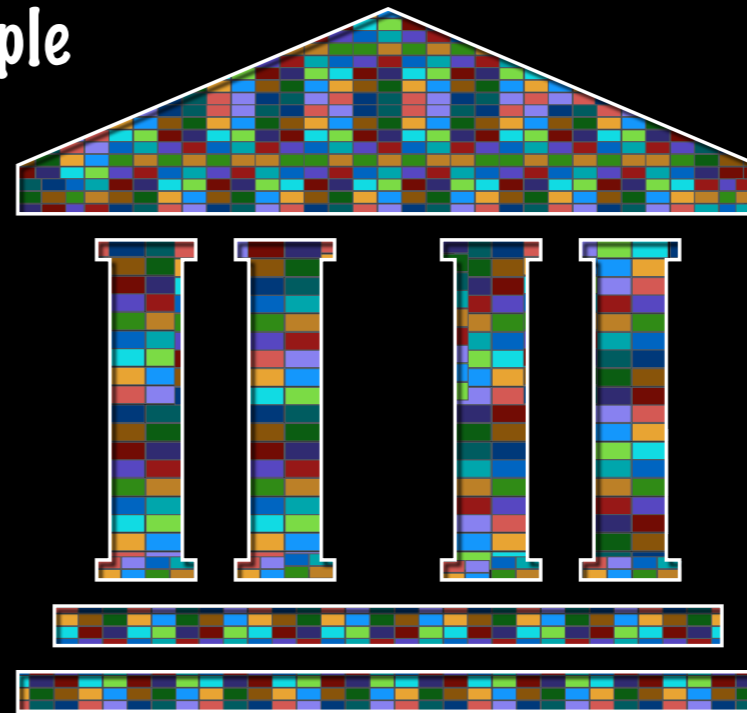
- Ephesians 2:20-22 (ESV) 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, **being joined together, grows** into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are **being built together** into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- What is it that joins us together?
  - Salvation in Christ
  - Family (household)
  - Kingdom (fellow-citizens)
  - Foundation and Cornerstone



# The church is a temple

Grows into a holy temple  
in the Lord

Ephesians 2:21

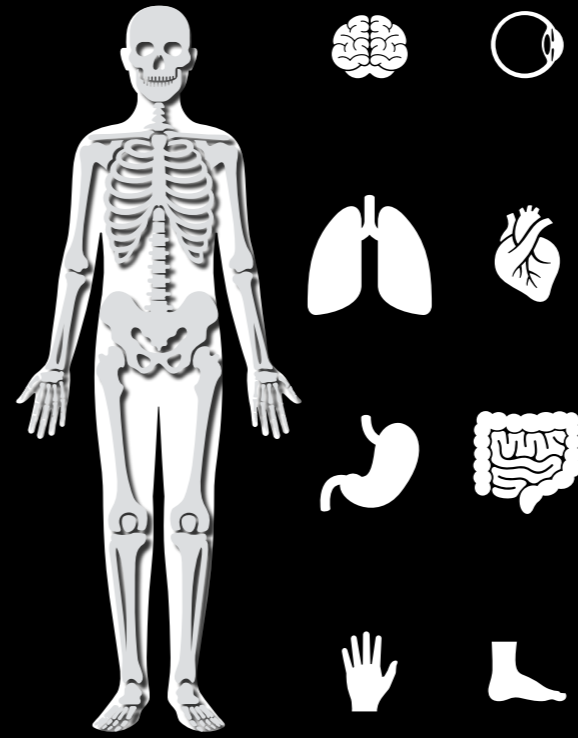


- Living Stones
  - joined together
  - grows
  - built together
- A Dwelling Place for God
  - A spiritual house
  - Spiritual sacrifices

# The church is a body

one body  
Ephesians 2:16; 4:4

Christ is the head of  
the church, his body  
Ephesians 5:23

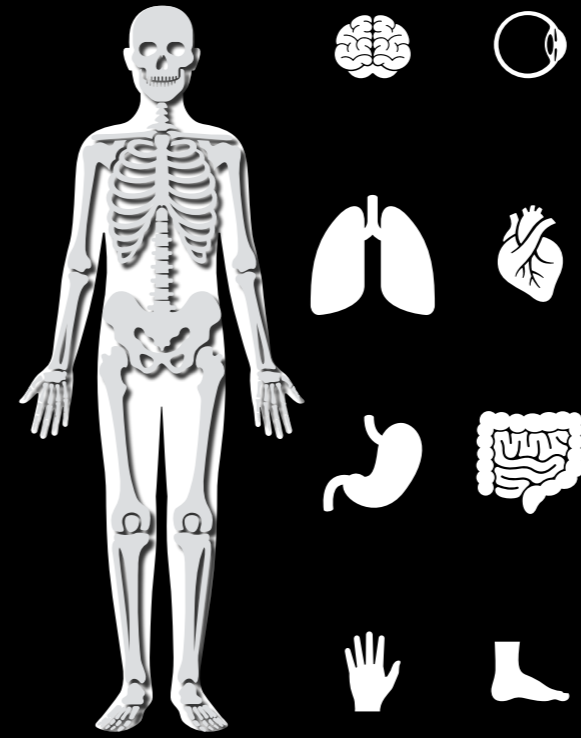


- Ephesians 2:16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

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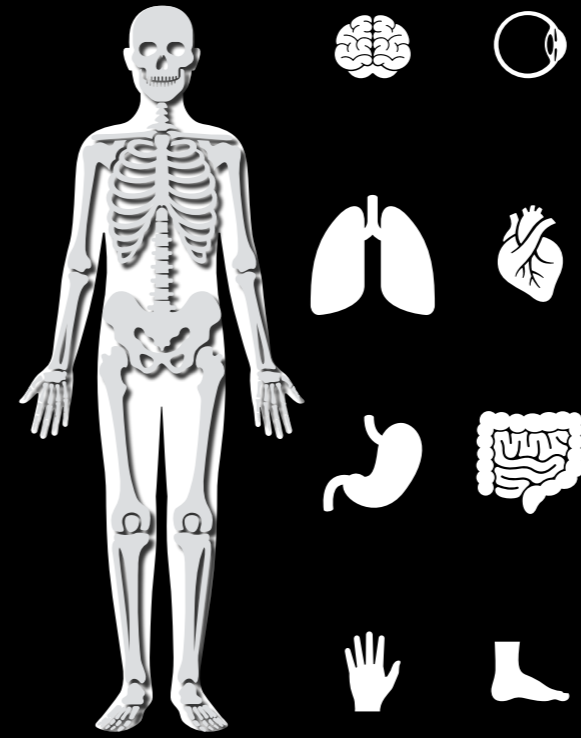
- Ephesians 4:1-6 (ESV) 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



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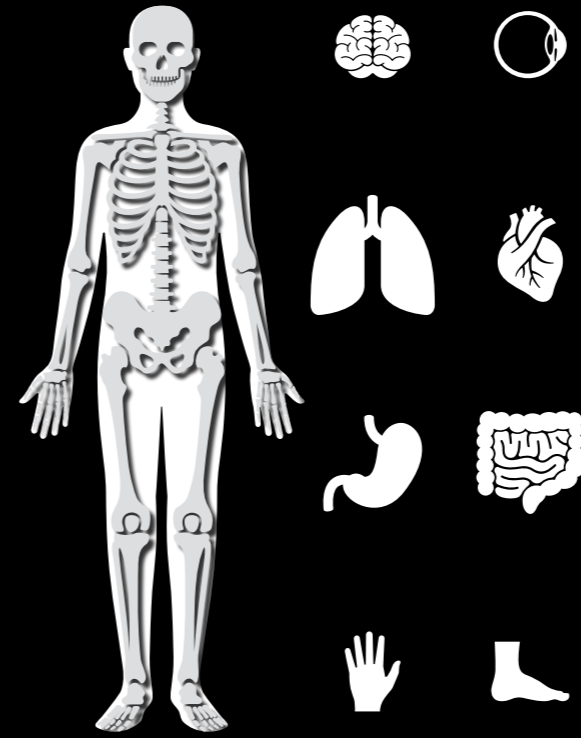


- Ephesians 5:23 (ESV) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
- Head is Christ
- Reconciled into one body
- one body

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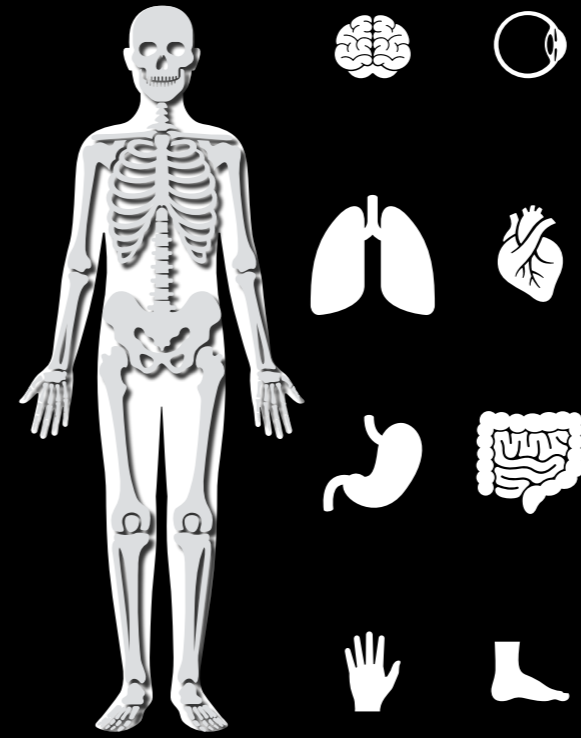


- Romans 12:4-5 (ESV) 4 For as in one body we have **many members**, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and **individually members one of another**.

# The church is a body

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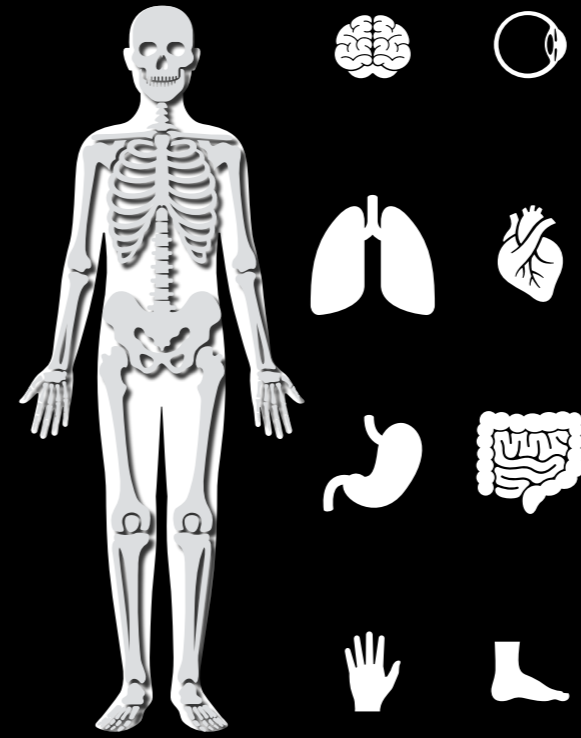


- 1 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV) 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 12:24-27 (ESV) But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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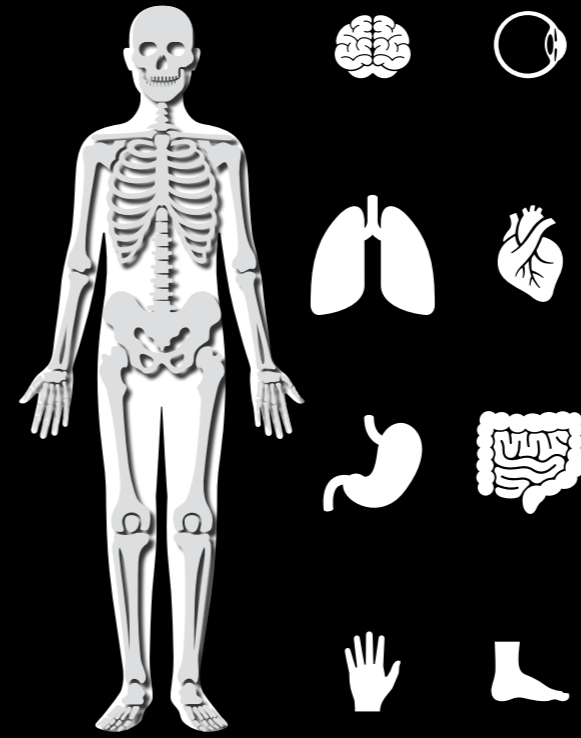


- 1 Corinthians 10:17 (ESV) Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
- We share a feast each week that emphasizes our unity as a body.

# The church is a body

one body  
Ephesians 2:16; 4:4

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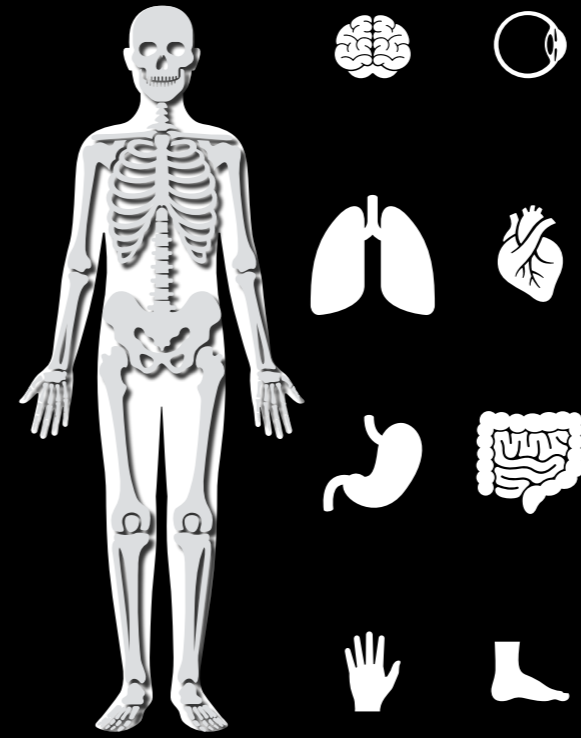
- Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)
- 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
  - 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry,



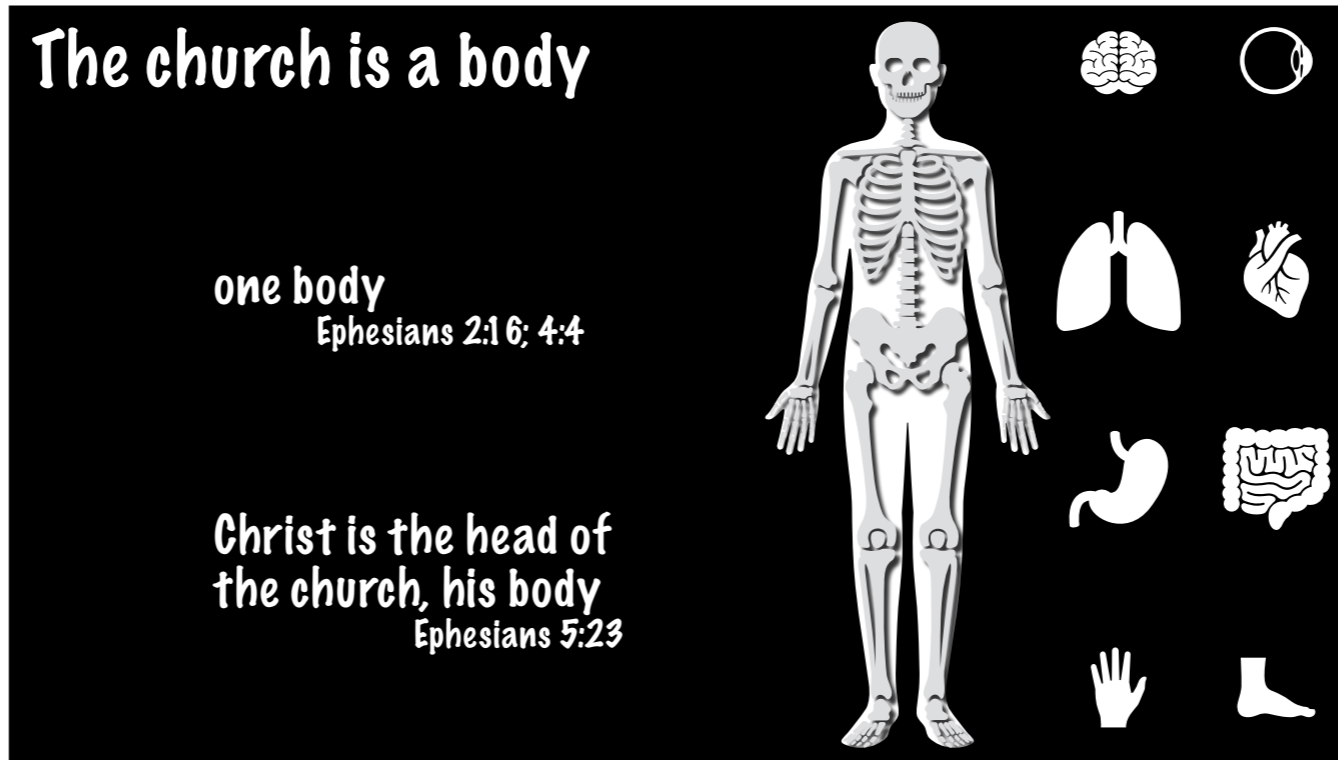
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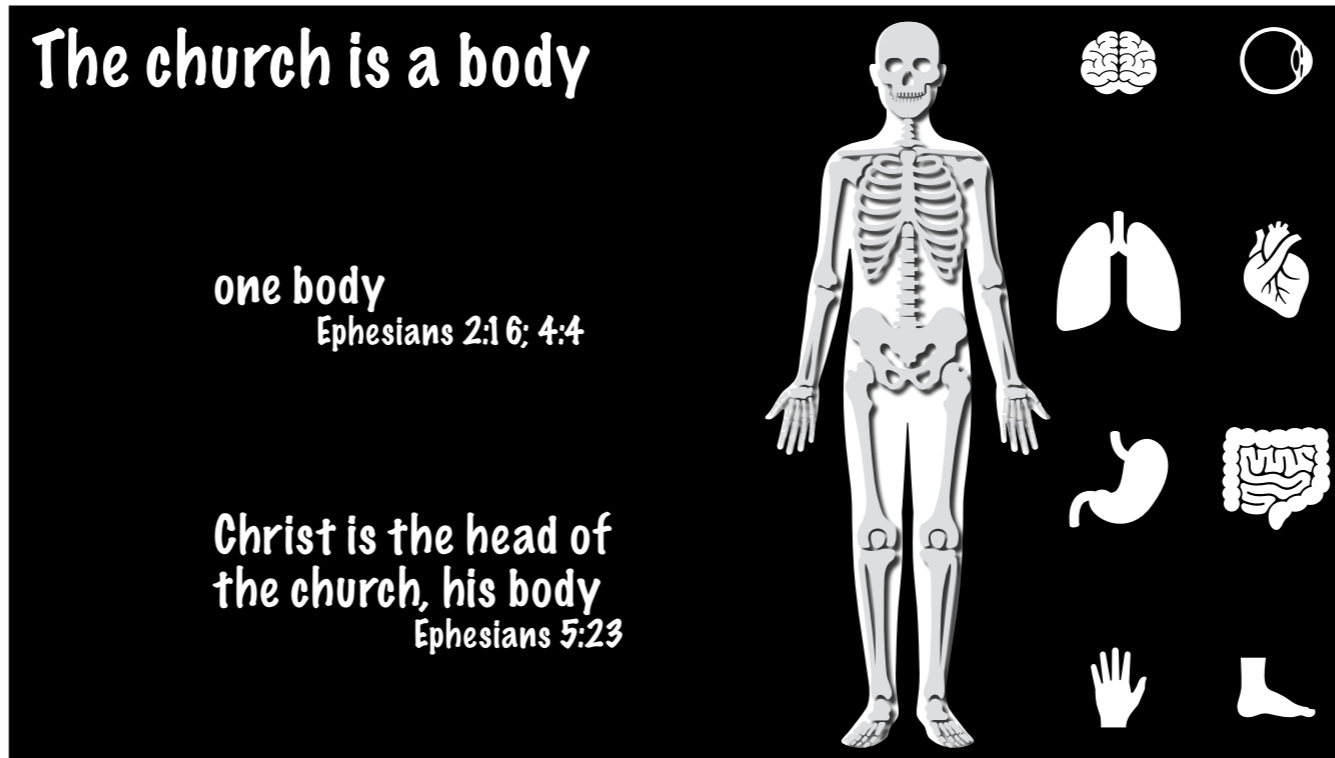
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- for building up the body of Christ,
  - 13 until **we all attain to the unity** of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
  - to mature manhood,
  - to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,



- 14 so that we may no longer be children,
  - tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

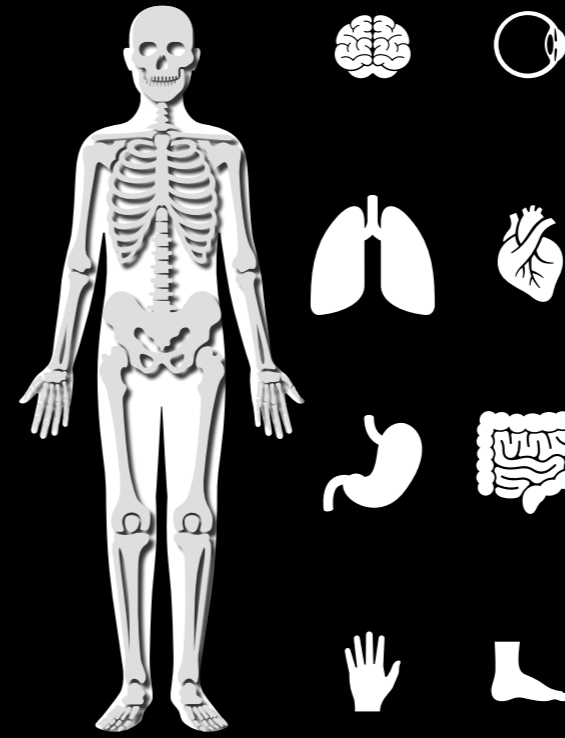


- 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love,
  - **we are to grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
    - 16 from whom **the whole body**,
      - joined and
      - held together by every joint with which it is equipped,
      - when each part is working properly,
      - makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

# The church is a body

**one body**  
Ephesians 2:16; 4:4

**Christ is the head of  
the church, his body**  
Ephesians 5:23



- many members: one body
- care for each other
- grow together to be like Christ

## The church is a body,

that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish  
Ephesians 5:27



- Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV) 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

## The church is a bride

that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish  
Ephesians 5:27



- 2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV) 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

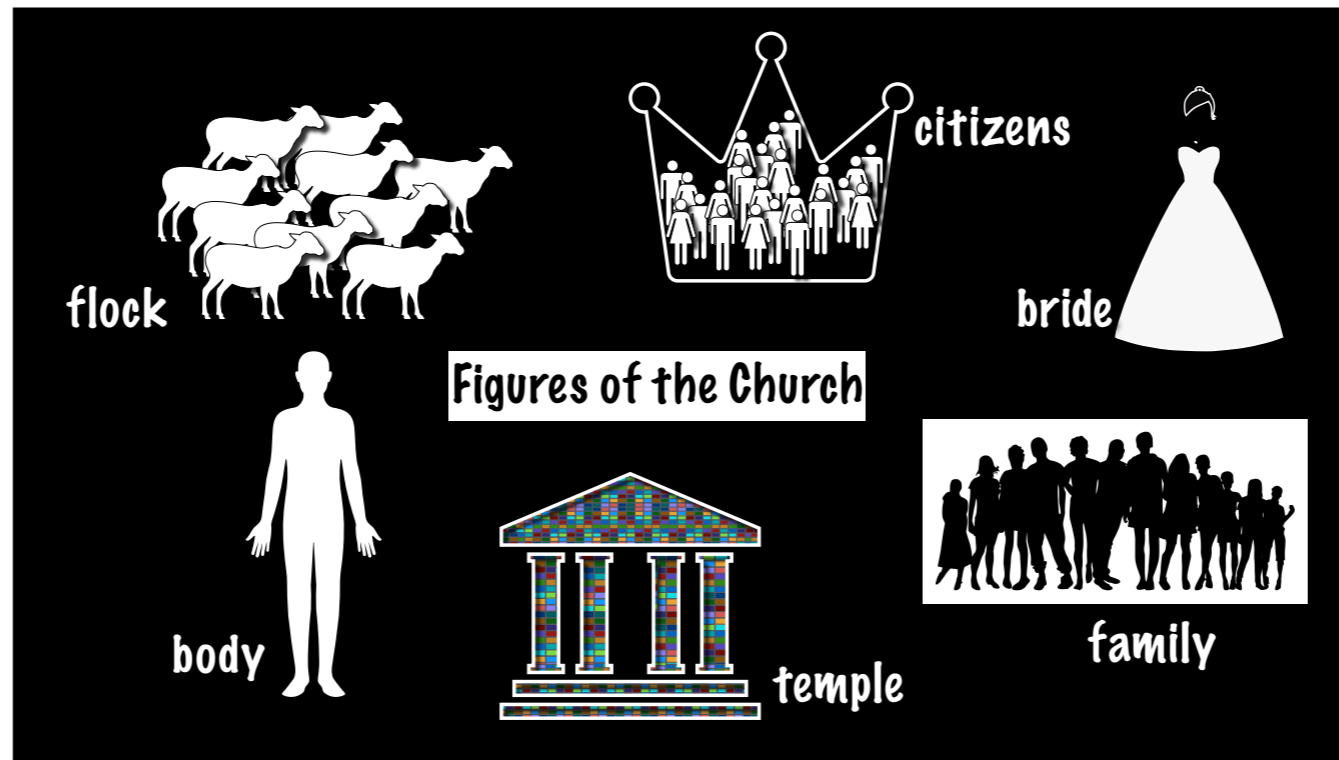


## The church is a bride

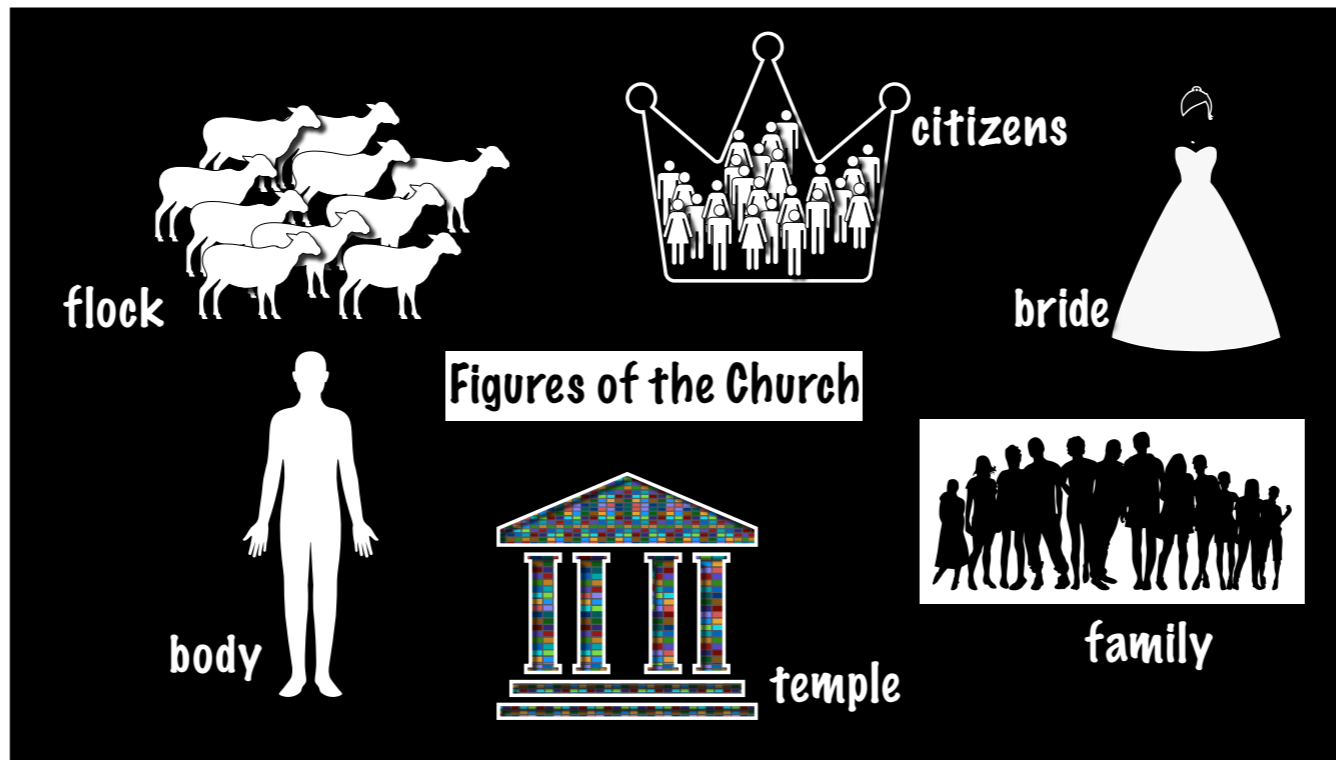
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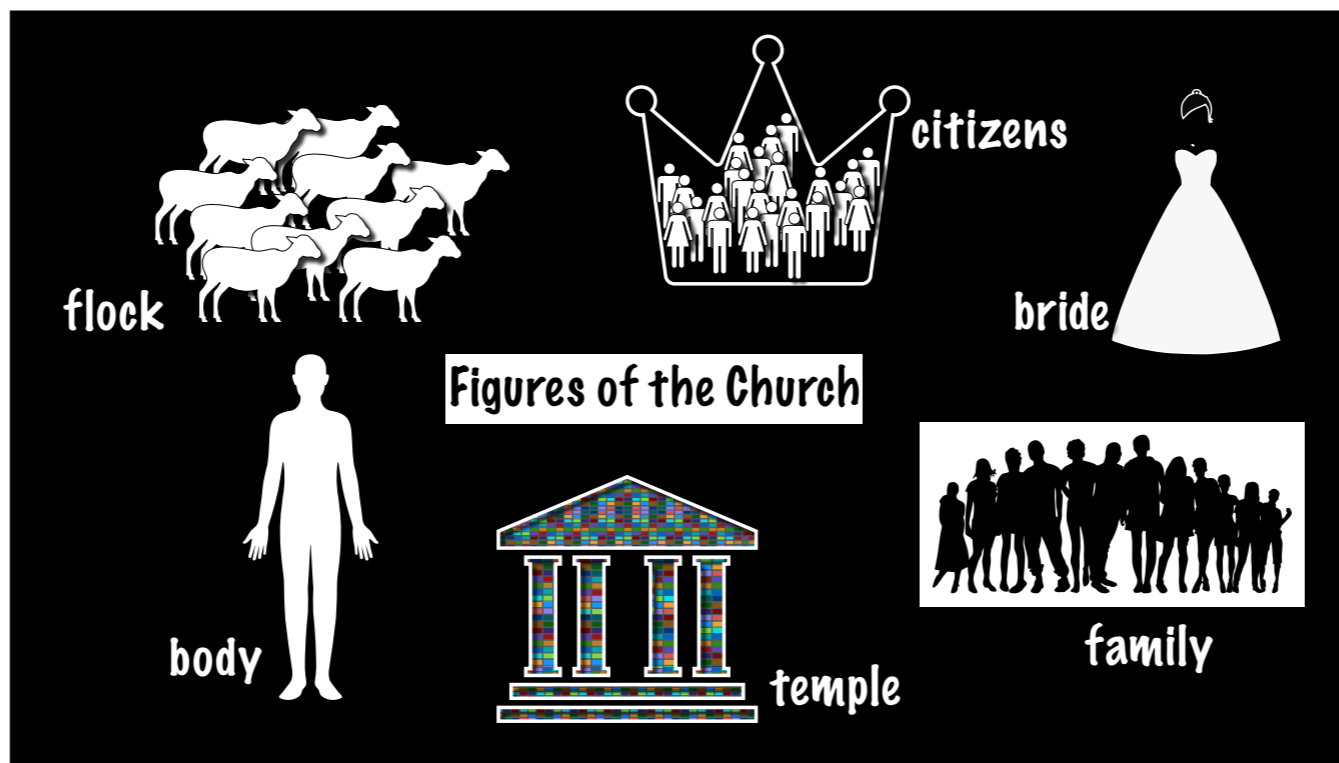
- Revelation 19:7-8 (ESV) 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” —
- Revelation 21:9 (ESV) 9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”



- Paul uses 6 figures to help us understand the church.
- What do you notice about them?
  - The leadership of Christ: we all look to him, follow him, honor him
  - Jesus is vitally and closely involved with us ... he is not a distant God/king
  - Rather, he is present



- 5 of the 6 emphasize unity of the many
  - many sheep, one flock
  - citizens, one kingdom
  - sons, daughters, one family
  - many stones, one temple
  - many members, one body
- The importance of each member, care for each member, love for each member, necessity of each member
  - If you are a believer in Jesus: you are a vital part of his body, especially in a congregation.



- The Holy Spirit repeatedly, and beautifully, emphasizes that the essence of the church is the company of those believers who have been redeemed and brought together in Jesus to help each other to grow to be more like him.
- We all need everyone of us
  
- What am I going to do this week for those who are struggling? Weak, faint?
- How am I going to encourage, comfort?
- How can I help those who seem strong? who lead?

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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One Another

#03b

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2021 August 15  
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## Figures of the Church (Part 2)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Synopsis: Paul uses 6 different figures of the church to help us understand the nature of the church: flock, kingdom, family, temple, body, and bride. Five of these (in part) emphasize the unity of the body which has many members, reminding us of the value and necessity of each of us in the church.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**