

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
**“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”**

Doctrine #40 – The Church: The Body and Bride of Christ and Her Reward

Note: Most information based on pages 274-287 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

## **The Seven Figures of Christ and His Church**

In the Scripture, seven figures are used to reveal the relationship between Christ and His church.

1. *The Shepherd and the sheep anticipated in the Twenty-Third Psalm are used in John 10, where Christ is the Shepherd and those who believe in Him are His sheep. According to this passage:*

- a. Christ came by the door, that is, through the appointed lineage of David;
- b. He is the true Shepherd who is followed by the true sheep;
- c. Christ is also the Door of the sheep, the Door of entrance into salvation as well as the Door which provides security

**John 10:9-11** *“I AM THE DOOR. If anyone enters by Me, HE WILL BE SAVED, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

**John 10:28-29** *“I give them eternal life, AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”*

- d. Life and food are provided for the sheep by the Shepherd;
- e. In contrast, other shepherds are merely hirelings who would not give their lives for the sheep;
- f. There is a fellowship between the sheep and the Shepherd—just as the Father knows the Son and the Son knows the Father, so the sheep know the Shepherd; although Israel belonged to a different fold in the Old Testament, in the present age there is one fold and one Shepherd in which Jew and Gentile alike have salvation;

**John 10:16** *“I have other sheep THAT ARE NOT OF THIS PEN (i.e. “not Jews”). I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

- g. As the Shepherd, Christ not only lays down His life for His sheep but ever lives to intercede for them and provide for them the spiritual life and food they need;

**Hebrews 7:25** *“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, BECAUSE HE ALWAYS LIVES TO INTERCEDE FOR THEM.”*

**Psalms 23:1** *“The Lord is my shepherd; I SHALL NOT WANT.”*

2. *Christ is the True Vine, and believers are the branches.*

- a. Although Israel was related to God in the figure of a vine in the Old Testament, Christ is the True Vine and believers are the branches, according to John 15.
- b. The figure speaks of both the union with Christ and communion with Christ.
- c. Believers are exhorted to abide in this unbroken fellowship with Christ

**John 15:10** *"If you keep My commands, you will REMAIN IN MY LOVE, just as I have kept my Father's commands and REMAIN IN HIS LOVE."*

d. And the results of abiding are:

- 1) Cleansing or Pruning (v. 2),
- 2) Effectual Prayer (v. 7),
- 3) Celestial Joy (v. 11), and
- 4) Eternal Truth (v. 16).

**John 15:2** *"He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit HE PRUNES so that it will be even more fruitful."*

**John 15:7** *"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, and it will be done for you."*

**John 15:11** *"I have told you this SO THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU and that your joy may be complete."*

**John 15:16** *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and SO THAT WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME the Father will give you."*

- e. The central truth of the vine and the branches is that the believer cannot enjoy his Christian life or be fruitful in his service apart from a living connection with Christ the true Vine.

3. *Christ is the Cornerstone, and the church comprises the stones of the building.*

- a. In contrast with the Old Testament, in which Israel had a temple (Exod. 25:8), the church is a temple (Eph. 2:21).

**Exodus 25:8** *"Then have them MAKE A SANCTUARY FOR ME, and I will dwell AMONG THEM."*

**Ephesians 2:21** *"IN HIM the whole building (i.e. "the church") is joined together and rises TO BECOME A HOLY TEMPLE UNTO THE LORD."*

- b. In the figure Christ is pictured as the Chief Cornerstone and individual believers as stones of the building.

**Ephesians 2:19-22** “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF BEING THE CORNERSTONE. In him the whole building is joined together and rises TO BECOME A HOLY TEMPLE UNTO THE LORD. And in Him YOU TOO ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER TO BE A DWELLING in which God lives by his Spirit.”

- c. It is God’s present purpose to build His church.

**Matthew 16:18** “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

- d. In the construction of the church as a building, each stone is a living stone because it partakes of the divine nature.

**1 Peter 2:5** “YOU ALSO, LIKE LIVING STONES, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

- e. Christ is the Chief Cornerstone and Foundation and the building as a whole becomes “an habitation of God through the Spirit”.

**1 Corinthians 3:11** “For no one can lay any FOUNDATION other than the one already laid, WHICH IS CHRIST.”

**Ephesians 2:20-22** “built on the foundation 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 in the Lord. And in Him you too are being BUILT TOGETHER to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

**1 Peter 2:6** “For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, A CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE, and THE ONE WHO TRUSTS IN HIM WILL NEVER BE PUT TO SHAME.”

**Ephesians 2:22** “And IN HIM you too are being built together TO BECOME A DWELLING IN WHICH GOD LIVES BY HIS SPIRIT.”

- f. In the figure of the building, the dependence of each believer upon Christ as the Foundation and Chief Cornerstone is evident, and the stones of the building likewise reveal interdependence of believers, with the building as a whole the temple of God through the Holy Spirit.
4. Christ is pictured in the New Testament as our High Priest with the believers as believer-priests. As pointed out in previous studies, the believer-priest has a fourfold sacrifice:
- a. He offers a service of sacrifice, presenting himself once for all to God.

**Romans 12:1-2** “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, TO OFFER YOU BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- b. He offers a service of worship, in giving praise and thanksgiving to God; including a service of intercession, or prayer on behalf of his own needs and others.

**Hebrews 13:15** “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name.”

**Romans 8:26-27** “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR GOD’S PEOPLE in accordance with the will of God.”

**Colossians 4:12** “Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. HE IS ALWAYS WRESTLING IN PRAYER FOR YOU, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

**1 Timothy 2:1** “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, INTERCESSION and thanksgiving be made for all people...”

**Hebrews 10:19-22** “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and SINCE WE HAVE A GREAT PRIEST OVER THE HOUSE OF GOD, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

- 1) As our High Priest, Christ enters into heaven through His blood shed on Calvary:

**Hebrews 4:14-16** “Therefore, since WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO HAS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

**Hebrews 9:24** “For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; HE ENTERED HEAVEN ITSELF, now TO APPEAR FOR US in God’s presence.”

**Hebrews 10:19-22** “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

2) And now intercedes for us

**Romans 8:34** *“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and IS ALSO INTERCEDING FOR US.”*

**Hebrews 7:25** *“Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, BECAUSE HE ALWAYS LIVES TO INTERCEDE FOR THEM.”*

- c. He offers the sacrifice of good works
- d. He offers the sacrifice of their substance in addition to offering their bodies as a living sacrifice

**Hebrews 13:16** *“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES God is pleased.”*

- 5. *Christ as the Head and the church as the body of Christ revealing the present purpose of God.* (This figure will be given separate and extended consideration later in this chapter).
- 6. *Christ as the Last Adam and the church as the new creation is a figure in which Christ, as the Resurrected One, replaces Adam, the head of the old order, and becomes head of the new creatures in Christ.* (see 1Corinthians 15:45-49)
  - a. The figure is based on the certainty of the resurrection of Christ and the significance that in His resurrection Christ established a new order.
  - b. The believer is seen to be in Christ by baptism of the Spirit, in contrast with being in Adam.
  - c. In his new position in Christ he shares all that Christ did on his behalf by way of providing both righteousness and new life in Christ.
  - d. Because Christ is the Head of a new creation, it requires a new commemorative day, the first day of the week, in contrast with the Sabbath, which belonged to the old order.
- 7. *Christ as the Bridegroom and the church as the bride is the figure that is prophetic of both present and future relationships between Christ and His church.*
  - a. In contrast with Israel presented in the Old Testament as an unfaithful wife of Jehovah, the church is revealed in the New Testament to be a virgin bride waiting the coming of her Bridegroom. (This will be the subject of an extended discussion later in this chapter).
  - b. Just as the church as the body of Christ is the most important figure revealing the present purpose of God, so the church as the bride is the most important figure revealing the future relationship of the church to Christ.

## The Church as the Body of Christ

Previous discussion of the baptism of the Holy Spirit brought out the New Testament revelation of the church joined together and formed into the body of Christ by the baptism of the Spirit, as declared in 1 Corinthians 12:13: “*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*” Three major truths are presented in this figure: (1) the church is a self-developing body; (2) members of the body are given special gifts and are appointed to special service; (3) the body is a living union or an organism.

1. *As a self-developing body, the church is presented in Ephesians 4:11-16 as comprising individuals who have spiritual gifts.*
  - a. Hence some are apostles, others are prophets, evangelists, or pastors and teachers.
  - b. The central truth is that believers are not only exhorted to serve God in various capacities, but they are equipped to do a particular work to which God has called them.
  - c. A believer fulfills his proper service when he fulfills the particular role in the body of Christ which is assigned to him and shares in perfecting the body of Christ

**Ephesians 4:13** “*Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, ATTAINING TO THE WHOLE MEASURE of the fullness of Christ...*”

2. *Members of the body of Christ are appointed to a specific service in keeping with their gifts.*
  - a. Just as in the human body different members have different functions, so it is in the body of Christ. It is most important that each believer examine himself soberly to see what gifts God has given him and then use these gifts to the glory of God.
  - b. Important gifts are mentioned in:

**Romans 12:3-8** “*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. WE HAVE DIFFERENT GIFTS, according to the grace given to each of us. IF YOUR GIFT is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*”

**1 Corinthians 12:28** “*And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then GIFTS OF healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues;*”

- c. Every believer has some gifts, and believers may have more than one.

- d. The spiritual gifts, while sometimes related to natural abilities, are not to be confused with them.
- e. For instance, while a person may have the gift of teaching naturally, only God can give the gift of teaching spiritual things.
- f. Spiritual gifts are not secured by seeking, but rather by the Holy Spirit apportioning gifts “to every man severally as he will”

**1 Corinthians 12:11** “*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and HE DISTRIBUTES THEM TO EACH ONE, JUST AS HE DETERMINES.”*

- g. In the apostolic church some gifts were given which continue throughout the present age; others were sign gifts which apparently ceased after the first generation of Christians.
- h. Every gift, however, is subject to regulation by the Word of God, is not a proper basis for pride, and is a great responsibility for which each believer will have to give an account.
- i. While local churches may develop extensive organizations, the work of God is done primarily through the church as an organism, directed by Christ the Head in keeping with the capacities of each individual member.
- j. While it is not uncommon for a believer in Christ to be required to do some things in areas where he may not be especially gifted, obviously his highest function is to perform the task for which he has been placed in the body of Christ.
- k. As he presents his body to the Lord as a living sacrifice, he can know God’s perfect will.

**Romans 12:1-2** “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD’S WILL IS—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**3. The body is a living organism united eternally in Christ.**

- a. The unity of the body comprising both Jews and Gentiles and people of various races and cultures is set forth in:

**Ephesians 1:23** “*WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.”*

**Ephesians 2:15-16** “*by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was TO CREATE IN HIMSELF ONE NEW HUMANITY OUT OF THE TWO, thus making peace, and in one body TO RECONCILE BOTH OF THEM to God through the cross, by which HE PUT TO DEATH THEIR HOSTILITY.”*

**Ephesians 3:6** *“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, MEMBERS TOGETHER IN ONE BODY, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”*

**Ephesians 5:30** *“for we are MEMBERS OF HIS BODY.”*

- a. The church as the body of Christ has a marvelous unity in which the division between Jew and Gentile is ignored, and Gentiles and Jews have equal privilege and grace.
- b. The body of Christ contrasts sharply with the relationship of God to Israel and Gentiles in the Old Testament and is a unique situation limited to the present age.
- c. Members of the body, according to Ephesians 3, share in the wonderful truth hidden from Old Testament prophets but revealed in the New that Gentiles are fellow-heirs and of the same body, partakers of the same promise in Christ by the Gospel as the Jews

**Ephesians 3:6** *“THIS MYSTERY is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”*

- d. The unity of the body is an eternal unity which is the basis of Christian fellowship and service in the present age and the ground for eternal fellowship in the ages to come.

**Ephesians 4:4-7** *“THERE IS ONE BODY and one Spirit, just as you were called to ONE HOPE when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.”*

## **Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as the Bride**

1. Of the seven figures of Christ and the church, only the figure of the Bridegroom and the bride has prophetic significance.
2. In contrast with Israel, who is the unfaithful wife of Jehovah, the church is pictured in the New Testament as the virgin bride awaiting the coming of her Bridegroom.

**2 Corinthians 11:2** *“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you AS A PURE VIRGIN TO HIM.”*

3. Christ as the Bridegroom is introduced by John the Baptist.

**John 3:29** *“THE BRIDE BELONGS TO THE BRIDEGROOM. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.”*



4. The major revelation, however, is given in Ephesians 5:25-33 to illustrate the proper relationship between husbands and wives in Christ.

**Ephesians 5:25-33** *“Husbands, love your wives, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and TO PRESENT HER TO HIMSELF AS A PURE CHURCH, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, JUST AS CHRIST DOES THE CHURCH—for we are members of His body. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery—but I AM TALKING ABOUT CHRIST AND THE CHURCH. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”*

5. Here the threefold work of Christ is revealed:
  - a. In His death, “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (v. 25)
  - b. Christ is engaged in the present work “that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (v. 26)
  - c. “that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (v. 27)
6. In dying on the cross Christ fulfilled the oriental symbolism of paying the dowry or necessary price to secure His wife.
7. In the present age, by the washing of water, the application of the Word of God, and sanctification to the believer, Christ is preparing and cleansing His bride for her future relationship.
8. At the end of the age at the rapture of the church, the Bridegroom will come for His bride and take her to heaven. There He will present her as the church which reflects His own glory, perfect, without blemish, spot, or wrinkle, a holy bride suitable for a holy Bridegroom.
9. The wedding feast which follows, probably fulfilled in the spiritual fellowship of the millennial kingdom, is one in which all other saints join in celebrating the marriage of Christ and His church.
10. This marriage feast is announced in Revelation 19:7-8 at the very time that Christ is about to come to earth to set up His kingdom.

**Revelation 19:7-8** *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! FOR THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB HAS COME, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”*

11. The love of Christ for His church revealed in this figure is an outstanding demonstration of the love of God.

12. Five characteristics of divine love may be mentioned.

- a. *The eternal duration of the love of God stems from the fact that "God is love" (1 John 4:8).*
- 1) He has not attained to love by self-effort or cultivation, nor does He hold love as a detached possession which might be abandoned at will.
  - 2) Love is a vital part of His being. It began when He began. If His love were to cease, a very essential part of the person of God would cease. He is what He is, to a large degree, because of His love.
  - 3) The love of God can know no change. To Israel He said, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3); and of Christ it is written, "Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end" (lit., "without end"; John 13:1; cf. 15:9).
  - 4) In God's love toward an individual there is neither fluctuation nor cessation.
- b. *The love of God is the motivation for His ceaseless activity.*
- 1) Though the love of God was once and for all manifested in the sacrifice of His well-beloved Son, what was manifested in a moment of time is, nevertheless, the revelation of the eternal attitude of God toward men.

**Romans 5:8** *"But God DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US in this: While we were still sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US."*

**1 John 3:16** *"THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS: Jesus Christ LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."*

- 2) Could we have gazed into the heart of God before the creation of the material universe we would have seen every provision then made for His Lamb to be slain for the sin of the world.

**Revelation 5:6** *"Then I saw a Lamb, LOOKING AS IF IT HAD BEEN SLAIN, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."*

- 3) Could we now gaze into the heart of God we would see the same undiminished compassion for the lost that was expressed in the death of His Son.
- 4) The momentary death of Christ was not a spasm in the divine affection; it is the announcement to a lost world of the fact of God's eternal, unchangeable love.

c. *The love of God has transparent purity.*

- 1) Concerning this aspect of the love of God no human words avail.
- 2) There is no selfishness in divine love; God has never sought benefits for Himself. He receives nothing; He bestows everything.
- 3) Peter exhorts believers to love with a pure heart fervently

**1 Peter 1:22** *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY, FROM THE HEART.”*

- 4) But how very few love God for what He is in Himself apart from all His benefits!
- 5) How different it is with God’s love! Judging by ourselves, we are sure He needs our money, our service, or our influence.
- 6) He needs nothing from us; but He needs *us*, and “only” because His infinite love cannot be satisfied apart from us.
- 7) The title “Beloved” when addressed to believers is most expressive; for, in their relation to God, their highest function is to *be loved*.

d. *The love of God has limitless intensity.*

- 1) The most costly thing in the universe is the blood of God’s only Son; yet God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.
- 2) The sacrifice of His Son for men when they were “sinners” and “enemies” seems to reach to the outmost bounds of infinity; however, we are told of a “much more” love even than this.
- 3) It is God’s love for those who have been reconciled and justified through Christ’s death.

**Romans 5:8-10** *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, WE WERE RECONCILED TO HIM THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!”*

- 4) Indeed, nothing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39).

e. *The love of God has inexhaustible benevolence.*

- 1) There is no hope for this world apart from the marvelous fact that God loves even sinners. But divine love is not passive. Moved to an infinite degree by His love, God acted in behalf of those whom He otherwise would have had to banish from His presence forever.
- 2) God could not ignore the just condemnation of the sinner which His own holiness imposed; but He could take upon Himself the curse which belonged to the sinner—"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)—and this He did in order that, without violating His own holiness, He might be free to save the guilty

**Romans 3:26** "HE DID IT TO DEMONSTRATE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

- 3) Being free through the substitutionary death of Christ, God knows no limitations and does not cease working until, to His own satisfaction, He places the justly doomed sinner in heaven's highest glory, even conformed to the image of Christ.
  - 4) Saving grace is more than love; it is God's love set absolutely free and made to triumph over His righteous judgments against the sinner. "By grace are ye saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8; cf. 2:4; Titus 3:4-5).
13. There is also in God a perfect hatred for sin which, like a counterpart of His love, prompts Him to save the sinner from his doom. In like manner, this same hatred for sin, combined with His love, makes of God a Father who chastens His child. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (Rev. 3:19), and "Whom the Lord loves he chastens" (Heb. 12:6).
14. Because of his living union with Christ, the believer is loved by the Father even as Christ is loved, and this infinite love is never decreased even in the hour of correction or trial.

**1 Corinthians 6:17** "But whoever is united with the Lord is ONE WITH HIM IN SPIRIT."

**John 17:23** "I in them and you in Me—so that they may be brought TO COMPLETE UNITY. Then the world will know that You sent Me and have loved them EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME."

15. In addition to these direct manifestations of the love of God, many indirect manifestations can be cited.
16. There is little reference in the New Testament to human love; its emphasis falls rather upon the imparted divine love which is experienced only by the Spirit-filled believer. The message of Romans 5:5 is that the love of God gushes forth from the Spirit who is given unto us.
17. Since this divine love is "the fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22), He is its source.

18. Thus passing through the believer's heart, the divine love is indirectly manifested. 1 John emphasizes the truth that, if born of God, we will love as God loves; and 1 Corinthians 13 is a description of the superhuman character of that love. There is no ecstasy in this life comparable to experiencing the unhindered outflow of the love of God.

19. It should be observed that love *for* God is not under consideration; rather it is the love which is God's own.

20. Concerning this love, certain things should be noted:

a. It is experienced in answer to the prayer of Christ:

**John 17:26** *"I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love You have for Me MAY BE IN THEM and that I myself may be in them."*

b. God loves the lost world:

**John 3:16** *"For God SO LOVED THE WORLD that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

**Ephesians 2:4** *"But BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, God, who is rich in mercy..."*

c. He abhors the world-system which is evil:

**1 John 2:15-17** *"DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD NOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."*

d. God loves those whom He has redeemed:

**John 13:34-35** *"A new command I give you: Love one another. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, so you must love one another By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."*

**John 15:12-14** *"My command is this: Love each other AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command."*

**Romans 5:8** *"But God demonstrates HIS OWN LOVE FOR US in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

**Ephesians 5:25** *"Husbands, love your wives, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH and gave Himself up for her."*

**1 John 3:16** *"This is how we know WHAT LOVE IS: Jesus Christ LAID DOWN HIS LOVE FOR US. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."*

**1 John 4:2** “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and HIS LOVE IS MADE COMPLETE IN US.”

e. God loves the nation Israel

**Jeremiah 31:3** “The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I HAVE LOVED YOU (i.e. “the nation of Israel”) WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.’”

f. God loves those who have wandered from Him

**Luke 15:4** “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and GO AFTER THE LOST SHEEP UNTIL HE FINDS IT?”

**Luke 15:20** “So he got up and went to his father. ‘But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was FILLED WITH COMPASSION FOR HIM; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.’”

g. God’s love is eternal

**John 13:1** “It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, HE LOVED THEM TO THE END.”

h. God’s love is sacrificial, even giving His own Son

**1 John 3:16** “This is how we know what love is: JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US...”

**2 Corinthians 8:9** “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake HE BECAME POOR, so that you THROUGH HIS POVERTY might become rich.”

**Ephesians 5:2** “and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

21. In the mystery of this imparted divine compassion, the Apostle Paul was willing to be accursed from Christ for his brethren—his kinsmen after the flesh (Rom. 9:1-3).

22. The exercise of divine love is the first commandment of Christ under grace

**John 13:34-35** “A NEW COMMAND I GIVE TO YOU: Love one another. As I have loved you, so YOU MUST love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**John 15:12-14** “MY COMMAND IS THIS: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND.”

23. It should be the outstanding characteristic of every Christian

**Galatians 5:13** “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly IN LOVE.”

**Ephesians 4:2** “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another IN LOVE...”

**Ephesians 4:15** “Instead, speaking the truth IN LOVE, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

**Ephesians 5:2** “and walk in the way OF LOVE, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

**Colossians 2:2** “My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and UNITED IN LOVE, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ...”

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** “May the Lord make YOUR LOVE increase and overflow FOR EACH OTHER and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** “Now about YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God TO LOVE EACH OTHER.”

24. The imparted love of God cannot be cultivated, nor can it be produced by the flesh. It is the normal experience of those who, having met the simple conditions, are filled with the Spirit

**Galatians 5:22**; *But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness”*

## **The Bride Adorned and Rewarded**

1. Among the many judgments of Scripture, one of the most important is the judgment seat of Christ where the church is judged and rewarded.
2. With reference to sin, Scripture teaches that the child of God under grace shall not come into judgment in his standing before God.

**John 3:18** “Whoever believes in Him IS NOT CONDEMNED, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

**John 5:24** “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and WILL NOT BE JUDGED but has crossed over from death to life.”

**John 6:37** *All those the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I WILL NEVER DRIVE AWAY.”*

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Romans 8:1** “Therefore, THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus...”

**1 Corinthians 11:32** “Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined SO THAT WE WILL NOT BE FINALLY CONDEMNED BY THE WORLD.”

3. Instead, in his standing before God, and on the ground that the penalty for all sin—past, present, and future—has been borne by Christ as the perfect Substitute, the believer is not only placed beyond condemnation, but being in Christ is accepted in the perfection of Christ and loved of God as Christ is loved.

**1 Corinthians 1:30** “It is because of Him THAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS, AND REDEMPTION...”

**Ephesians 1:6** “to the praise of His glorious grace, which HE HAS FREELY GIVEN US in the One He loves.”

**Colossians 2:10, 13** “and in Christ YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO FULLNESS. He is the head over every power and authority When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God MADE YOU ALIVE IN CHRIST. He forgave us all our sins...”

**Hebrews 10:14** “For by one sacrifice HE HAS MADE PERFECT FOREVER those WHO ARE BEING MADE HOLY...”

**John 17:23** “I in them and you in me—so that THEY MAY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY. Then the world will know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.”

4. But with reference to his daily life and service for God, the Christian must give an account before the judgment seat of Christ.

**Romans 14:10** “You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? FOR WE WILL ALL STAND BEFORE GOD’S JUDGMENT SEAT...”

**2 Corinthians 5:10** “For WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

**Ephesians 6:8** “because you know that the Lord WILL REWARD EACH ONE for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free...”

5. That judgment will occur at the coming of Christ to receive His own:

**1 Corinthians 4:5** “Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and WILL EXPOSE THE MOTIVES OF THE HEART. At that time each will receive their praise from God.”



**2 Timothy 4:8** “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.”

**Revelation 22:12** “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.”

**Matthew 16:27** “For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then he will reward each person ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.”

**Luke 14:14** “and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, YOU WILL BE REPAID AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS.”

6. When standing before the great white throne for their final judgment, the unsaved are to be judged “according to their works”

**Revelation 20:11-15** “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and EACH PERSON WAS JUDGED ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAD DONE. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

7. It is not the purpose of this judgment to determine whether those standing there are “saved” or “lost”; it rather determines the *degree* of penalty which, because of their evil works, shall rest upon those who are lost.
8. Likewise, the saved, when standing before the judgment seat of Christ at His coming, are judged according to their works, and this judgment does not determine whether they are saved or lost; rather, it determines the reward or loss of reward for service which will be due each individual believer.
9. Those who stand before the judgment seat of Christ will not only be saved and safe, but will already have been taken into heaven: not on the ground of their merit or works, but on the ground of divine grace made possible through the Savior-hood of Christ.
10. Under grace the character of the believer’s life and service does not, and cannot, in any way condition his eternal salvation, and so the life and service of the believer becomes a separate and unrelated issue to be judged by Christ—whose we are and whom we serve.
11. When gathered before “the throne of his glory,” there is also to be a reckoning of reward on the basis of merit for both Israel and the nations, but apart from the issues of personal salvation.

**Matthew 25:31** “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, HE WILL SIT ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE...”

**Matthew 6:2-6** “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, WILL REWARD YOU. And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, WILL REWARD YOU...”

**Matthew 24:45-46** “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? IT WILL BE GOOD FOR THAT SERVANT whose master finds him doing so WHEN HE RETURNS...”

12. There are three major figures used in the Scriptures to reveal the nature of the believer’s rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.

a. *The figure of stewardship is brought out in **Romans 14:10-12.***

**Romans 14:10-12** “You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’ So then, EACH OF US WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF OURSELVES TO GOD.”

- 1) Here in connection with the judgment of other believers, the exhortation is given, “You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’” So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.
- 2) In this passage we are exhorted not to try to evaluate the quality of a fellow Christian’s works. This does not mean that sin should not be judged and rebuked, but it refers rather to the value or quality of his life.
- 3) Too often Christians indulge in criticism of others in order that their own lives may appear better in their own sight. In other words, they “set at nought,” (treat with contempt, NIV), their brother in an effort to exalt themselves.
- 4) Revealed in this passage is the fact that every Christian will have to render account to God. The figure is that of a steward or a trustee. Everything a Christian has in life—whether it is intellectual capacity, natural gifts, physical health, spiritual gifts, or wealth—is a gift of God to him.

- 5) The more entrusted to him, the more for which he will have to give an account. As brought out in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Ye are not your own...ye are bought with a price.”
- 6) As stewards of all that God has given to us we will give an account at the judgment seat of Christ and will not be held responsible for that which was given to others, but will be held responsible only for what has been given to us.
- 7) The key to the judgment is not success or public acclaim, but rather faithfulness in using what God has committed to us.

b. *In 1 Corinthians 3:9-15 the believer’s life is viewed as a building built upon Christ as the Foundation.*

**I Corinthians 3:9-15** *“For we are co-workers in God’s service; YOU ARE GOD’S FIELD, GOD’S BUILDING. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any FOUNDATION other than the one already laid, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, THE BUILDER WILL RECEIVE HIS REWARD. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.”*

- 1) In determining the force of this passage, it should be observed:
  - i. Only those who are saved are in view. The personal pronouns “we” and “ye” include all who are saved and exclude all who are not saved; likewise, the word “man” refers only to the one who is building on the Rock Christ Jesus.
  - ii. Having presented to the Corinthians the Gospel by which they were saved—which salvation provides the Rock on which the saved one stands—the Apostle Paul likens himself to a wise master-builder who has laid the foundation; but in strong contrast with this, he indicates that each believer for himself is building the superstructure upon the one Foundation which is provided through the grace of God.
  - iii. The appeal, therefore, is to each one to take heed how he builds thereon. This is not a reference to so-called “characterbuilding,” which finds no basis in those passages addressed to the saints of this dispensation; their character is said to be “the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23) and is realized not by fleshly effort, but when walking by means of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).
- 2) The believer is represented as building a superstructure of service, or works, which is to be tested by fire—possibly by the eyes of fire of the Lord before whom he will stand.

**Revelation 1:14** *“The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and HIS EYES WERE LIKE BLAZING FIRE.”*

- 3) The “work” which the Christian is building upon Christ Jesus may be of wood, hay, or stubble, which fire destroys; or it may be of gold, silver, and precious stone which fire does not destroy and which, as in the case of gold and silver, is purified by it.
- 4) To the one whose “work” shall abide which he hath built on Christ, a reward shall be given; but the one whose “work” shall be burned shall suffer loss: not of his salvation which is secured through the finished work of Christ, but of his reward. Even when passing through the fire which is to test every Christian’s work and even when suffering the loss of his reward, he himself shall be saved.

c. *In 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 and especially in verses 24-27, the figure of a race and winning the prize is used to reveal the quality of Christian life and service.*

**I Corinthians 9:16-27** *“For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I HAVE A REWARD; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I MIGHT SAVE SOME. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, THAT I MAY SHARE IN ITS BLESSINGS. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? RUN IN SUCH A WAY TO GET A PRIZE. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I MYSELF WILL NOT BE DISQUALIFIED FOR THE PRIZE.”*

- 1) Having reference to his own service in preaching the Gospel, the apostle inquires, “What is my reward then?” The true answer to this question most naturally depends upon the nature and quality of the service he has rendered to God.
- 2) The apostle therefore proceeds to recount his own faithfulness in works (vv. 18-23); no one will deny the truthfulness of his report. He then likens Christian service to a race in which all believers are running, and as in a foot race only one receives the prize—and that through a superior effort.
- 3) Similarly, in Christian service the believer should exert all his strength that he may obtain his full reward—run, as it were, to surpass all others. Again, as the athlete is temperate in all things that he may obtain a corruptible crown, so the Christian should be temperate in all things that he may obtain an incorruptible crown.
- 4) The apostle’s self-control is seen in the fact that he kept his own body under subjection lest through some unworthy and half-hearted service for others he himself should be disapproved.

- 5) The word here translated “castaway” is *adokimos*, which is the negative form of *dokimos*; as *dokimos* is translated “approved.”

**Romans 14:18** “because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human APPROVAL;

**Romans 16:10** “Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ HAS STOOD THE TEST.”

**1 Corinthians 11:19** “No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s APPROVAL.”

**2 Corinthians 10:18** “For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord COMMENDS.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Do your best to present yourself to God AS ONE APPROVED, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth...”

So *adokimos* should be translated “disapproved.”

- 6) Since the apostle’s salvation was in no way in question, he was not afraid he would be dismissed from God forever; but he did fear being “disapproved” in the sphere of his service.
- 7) The Christian’s reward is sometimes mentioned as a “prize” and sometimes as a “crown”.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-25** “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets THE PRIZE? Run in such a way as to get THE PRIZE. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it TO GET A CROWN THAT WILL LAST FOREVER.”

**Philippians 4:1** “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and CROWN, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!”

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** “For what is our hope, our joy, or THE CROWN in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you?”

**2 Timothy 4:8** “Now there is in store for me THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.”

**James 1:12** “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, THAT PERSON WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

**1 Peter 5:4** “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, YOU WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF GLORY that will never fade away.”

**Revelation 2:10** *“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life AS YOUR VICTOR’S CROWN.”*

**Romans 3:11** *“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take YOUR CROWN.”*

- 8) These crowns may be classified under five divisions representing five distinct forms of Christian service and suffering, and the child of God is also warned lest he lose his reward.

**Colossians 2:18** *“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels DISQUALIFY YOU. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.”*

**2 John 8** *“Watch out THAT YOU DO NOT LOSE WHAT WE HAVE WORKED FOR, but that you may be REWARDED FULLY.”*

**Revelation 3:11** *“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, SO THAT NO ONE WILL TAKE YOUR CROWN.”*

- 9) The doctrine of rewards is the necessary counterpart to the doctrine of salvation by grace. Since God does not and cannot reckon the believer’s merit or works to the account of his salvation, it is required that the believer’s good works shall be divinely acknowledged.
- 10) The saved one owes nothing to God in payment for salvation which is bestowed as a gift; but he does owe God a life of undivided devotion, and for this life of devotion there is promised a reward in heaven.
- 11) Although the rewards of the believer are symbolized by crowns, according to Revelation 4:10 *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say crowns as a symbol of reward will be cast at the feet of the Savior in heaven. What then will be the reward for faithful service on the part of the individual believer?*
13. The probability is that faithful service on earth will be rewarded by a privileged place of service in heaven. Believers will find their highest fulfillment in loving service for the Savior who loved them and gave Himself for them. (see Revelation 22:3)
14. In the illustration of the talents used by Christ in Matthew 25:14-30, the man receiving five talents and the man receiving two talents (both of whom doubled what they had been given by their lord) were both given the same complement and reward by their Lord.

**Matthew 25:21, 23** *“His master replied, ‘WELL DONE, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MANY THINGS. Come and share your master’s happiness!’... His master replied, ‘WELL DONE, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”*

15. While this judgment does not seem to deal directly with the church, the principle may apply to all believers of all ages who are rewarded in eternity. Faithfulness in our service here will result in privileged service in eternity.
16. The central passage on the judgment seat of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11, reveals that the judgment seat of Christ is one where good works are distinguished from bad works, and on the basis of good works the believer is rewarded.
17. As previously brought out, it is not a matter of sin being judged, because the believer is already justified. It is not a matter of sanctification such as is experienced in present chastisement for failure to confess sin because the believer is already perfect in the presence of God.

**1 Corinthians 11:31-32** *"But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined SO THAT WE WILL NOT BE FINALLY CONDEMNED WITH THE WORLD."*

**1 John 1:9** *"If we confess our sins, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST and will forgive us our sins and PURIFY US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS."*

18. The only remaining issue, then, is the "quality" of the believer's life and the works that God counts "good" in contrast with works that are "worthless".
19. The solemn fact that every believer must someday stand before God to give an account for his life should encourage present faithfulness and proper evaluation and priorities of life based on the question of how it will be evaluated in eternity.

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
***“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”***

Doctrine #40 – The Church: The Body and Bride of Christ and Her Reward

1. Read Pages 1-23 from the Doctrine#40 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “The Church” as you read:

**a. The Seven Figures of Christ and His Church**

- 1) In the Scriptures, how many “figures” are used to reveal the relationship between Christ and His church?  
(page 1, top)
  
- 2) Name the different figures that are used to reveal the relationship between Christ and His church based on the following given verses:
  - a) John 10:9-11; John 10:16; Psalm 23:1
  
  - b) John 15:1-5
  
  - c) Exodus 25:8; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Peter 2:6
  
  - d) Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 10:19-22; Hebrews 13:16; Romans 12:1-2
  
  - e) Ephesians 5:30; Colossians 1:18; 1Corinthians 12:27
  
  - f) 1Corinthians 15:45-49; 2Corinthians 5:17



g) Revelation 19:7-8; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 22:17

- 2) What is one of the “I am’s” that Jesus proclaimed for Himself in John 10:9 in His role as our Shepherd?
- 3) When Jesus said in John 10:16 that He had “sheep that are not of this pen”, what was He referring to?  
(page 1, bottom)
- 4) What are the four results of “abiding” in our “Vine”, Jesus Christ? (page 2, top; John 15:1-16)
- 5) What is the “central truth” of the vine and the branches metaphor as referenced by Christ?  
(page 2, middle)
- 6) According to Exodus 25:8, what did the Lord want Israel to make a “sanctuary” for Him?
- 7) According to Ephesians 2:22, what is the purpose for all true believers being “built together”?
- 8) In the construction of the church as a building, each stone is a “living” stone because of what reason?  
(page 3, top; see also 1Peter 2:5, 2Peter 1:4)
- 9) What position does Christ have in relationship to the building of every true “church”?  
(page 3, middle; 1Corinthians 3:11; 1Peter 2:6; Ephesians 2:20-22)

- 10) In the figure of Christ as our High Priest and the believers as “believer-priests”, what are the fourfold sacrifices offered by “believer-priests”? (page 3, bottom – page 5, top)
  
- 11) In the figure of Christ as the Last Adam and the Church as the New Creation, what is this figure “based on” and “the significance of”? (page 5, middle)
  
- 12) True or False. Because Christ is the “Head” of a new creation, it requires a new commemorative day, the first day of the week (Sunday), in contrast with the Sabbath (Saturday), which belonged to the old order. (page 5, middle-bottom)
  
- 13) In contrast with Israel presented in the Old Testament as an “unfaithful wife” of Jehovah, the church is revealed as “what” in the New Testament? (page 5, bottom)

#### **b. The Church as the Body of Christ**

- 1) What are the three (3) major truths that are presented in the figure of “The Church as the Body of Christ”? (page 6, top)
  
- 2) The central truth based on the revelation that the church is a “self-developing” body, comprising individuals who have spiritual gifts, is not only are believers exhorted to serve God in various capacities, but also “what”? (page 6, top-middle)
  
- 3) In reference to “service” within the body of Christ, why is it important for each believer to “examine himself soberly”? (page 6, middle; Romans 12:3-8; 1Corinthians 12:28)

- 4) True or False. Every believer in Jesus Christ has been given only “1” spiritual gift. (page 6, bottom)
  
- 5) While local churches may develop extensive “organizations”, the work of God is done primarily how?  
(page 7, middle)
  
- 6) According to Ephesians 3:6, what is an important “mystery” revealed in the gospel of Jesus Christ?

**c. Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as the Bride**

- 1) Of the seven figures of Christ and the church, which one is the only figure to have “prophetic” significance? (page 8, middle-bottom)
  
- 2) Who introduced Christ (“the Messiah”) as the Bridegroom to whom the Bride belongs?  
(page 8, bottom; John 3:29)
  
- 3) What was the “oriental” symbolism that was fulfilled by Christ dying on the cross? (page 9, middle)
  
- 4) The love of Christ for His church revealed in the figure of the Bridegroom and the Bride is an outstanding demonstration of what? (page 9, bottom)

5) What are “five” (5) characteristics of divine love that are revealed in the New Testament?  
(page 10, top – page 12, top)

6) True or False. Because of his living union with Christ, the believer is loved by the Father even as Christ is loved, and this infinite love is NEVER decreased even in the hour that the believer is being corrected or disciplined (through trials) by God.  
(page 12, middle-bottom)

7) Who is the source of “true” love that exists between one human to another? (page 12, bottom; Gal 5:22)

8) According to John 17:26, what is something that Christ prayed to be “IN” His disciples?

9) What is something that God “abhors” that believers are told “NOT” to love?  
(page 13, middle; 1John 2:15-17)

10) According to Romans 5:8, how did God “demonstrate” His love for those He redeemed?

11) True or False. God stops loving those who “choose” to wander away from Him.  
(page 14, top; Luke 15:4, 20)

12) According to verses like John 13:1, we know that God’s love is “what”? (see also page 14, middle)

- 13) What is the “first commandment” of Christ under “grace”? (page 14, bottom; John 13:34-35)
  
- 14) What should be “the” outstanding characteristic of every Christian? (page 15, top; Gal 5:13; 1Thess 4:9)
  
- 15) The imparted love of God cannot be cultivated, nor can it be produced by the flesh. It is only experienced by “whom”? (page 15, middle; Galatians 5:22-23)

**d. The Bride Adorned and Rewarded**

- 1) Among the many judgments of Scripture, what is one of the most important to believers?  
(page 15, bottom)
  
- 2) True or False. With reference to “sin”, Scripture teaches that the child of God “under grace” shall NOT come into judgment in His “standing” before God.  
(page 15, bottom; John 3:18, 5:24, 6:37; Romans 5:1, 8:1; 1Corinthians 11:32)
  
- 3) At the “judgment seat of Christ”, instead of “sin”, what will Christian’s have to give an account of?  
(page 16, middle-bottom; Romans 14:10; 2Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 6:8)
  
- 4) When will the judgment of “believers” occur at the judgment seat of Christ?  
(page 16, bottom; 1Corinthians 4:5; 2Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:12; Matthew 16:27; Luke 14:14)
  
- 5) When standing before the great white throne of God for their final judgment, what will the “unsaved” be judged according to? (page 17, top-middle; Revelation 20:11-15)

- 6) True or False. At the great white throne of God, the people that are brought to this place of “judgment” is to determine whether or not they are really “saved” or “lost”.  
(page 7, middle)
- 7) True or False. At the judgment seat of Christ, the people that are brought to this place of “judgment” is NOT to determine whether or not they are really “saved” or “lost”.  
(page 7, bottom)
- 8) What are the three (3) major figures used in the Scriptures to reveal the nature of the believer’s rewards at the judgment seat of Christ?  
(page 18, middle- page 20, top; Romans 14:10-12; 1Corinthians 3:9-15, 9:16-27)
- 9) In Romans 14:10-12, Paul is NOT saying that sin amongst believers should not be “judged” and “rebuked”, but rather it refers to NOT judge what? (page 18, bottom)
- 10) As stewards of all that God has given to us (as individual believers) what is the only thing we will be held responsible (i.e. “judged”) for? (page 19, top)
- 11) True or False. According to 1Corinthians 3:9-15, if a believer does not have any good works built upon his faith in Jesus Christ, everything that believer has done will be “burnt up” and the believer will be in danger of losing his or her salvation. (page 20, top)
- 12) According to 1Corinthians 9:16-27, the concept of a runner running a race to “win the prize” is used by Paul to stress that in Christians “service” a believer should do “what” for “what” reason?  
(see also page 20, bottom)

- 13) True or False. Based on the true meaning of the Greek word “adokimos”, when Paul talked about being “disqualified” for the prize in 1Corinthians 9:27, the apostle’s salvation was in no way in question; rather, he was expressing his fear of being “disapproved” in the sphere of his service to the Lord. Thus, Paul was talking about losing his “rewards” when he got to heaven, not his “salvation”. (page 21, middle)
- 14) What are two of the different words that are mentioned in the New Testament in reference to a Christian’s “reward”? (page 21, middle; 1Cor 9:24-25; Philippians 4:1; 1Thess 2:19; 1Pet 5:4)
- 15) True or False. Throughout the New Testament, the believer is warned to be careful NOT to lose their “rewards”, but never is a believer warned to be careful NOT to lose their “salvation”. (page 22, top; Colossians 2:18; 2John 8; Revelation 3:11)
- 16) The “saved one” owes nothing to God in payment for salvation which is bestowed as a “gift”, but he does owe “what” to God? (page 22, middle)
- 17) The probability is that “faithful service” to Jesus Christ on earth will be “rewarded” with what in heaven? (page 22, bottom; see also Matthew 25:21-23; Revelation 20:4-6)
- 18) True or False. According to Matthew 25:21-23, believers will be rewarded NOT based on the totality of the “results” of our labor, but based on the “faithfulness” of our labor. (page 22, bottom)
- 19) The solemn fact that every believer must someday stand before God to give an “account” for his life should encourage “what”? (page 23, middle)