

THE CHURCH & THE KINGDOM PART 4 - What's Wrong with the Church?

Small Group Notes

It's hard to find two people who agree on everything about the church. Unfortunately, some people find it easy to talk about what is wrong with the church.

If Jesus is perfect, and he is the head of the church, then why is the church not perfect?

How would you answer these criticisms about the church?

- **The Church is not in step with the culture.**
- **The Church is too demanding.**
- **The Church is filled with hypocrites.**

There are several different examples used in the bible as types of the church.

A Building

(Read Eph 2:19-22) 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. 22In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

How is the church like a building?

A Body

(Read 1 Cor 12:14-20) For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

What are some ways the church is like a body? Who is the head?

A Bride

*(Read Rev 19:7) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, and his Bride has made herself ready.
(Read Eph 5:27) 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.*

How is the church a bride? How does this comparison challenge us?

**You can recap this session's video on Friday by visiting:
vimeo.com/channels/hosanna**