

Ephesians: A Fourfold Picture Of The Church

Eph. 3:9-11

Introduction:

- A. The church is important to God - the Father.
 - 1. Eternally planned. (v. 11)
 - 2. Divinely purchased. (5:25-27).
- B. The church is important to Christ - His Son.
 - 1. Promised it. (cf. Matt. 16:18; Mk. 9:1)
 - 2. Purchased it. (cf. Acts 20:28)
- C. The church is given in four-fold picture in Ephesians.

Discussion:

I. A BODY Under Christ Reconciled To God. (1:22,23; 2:16)

- A. A body subject to Christ is all things. (1:22,23)
- B. A body that is at peace (reconciled) with God.
 - 1. No reconciliation outside the church.
 - a. To be saved is to be in church. (Acts 2:38,41,47; Eph. 5:23)
 - b. To be "in Christ" is to be "in body" (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:4).
 - 2. No reconciliation in separate bodies.
 - a. If so, why bother to break down "wall of division (partition)". (2:14-15).
 - b. If so, the cross was in vain. (2:16)
- C. A body that is at peace with itself.
 - 1. Peace or unity established. (2:14-18)
 - 2. Peace or unity maintained. (4:1-6)
 - a. Not man made unity - but unity based on reconciliation to God.
 - b. "Unity of the Spirit" - See 2:18).

II. A BUILDING Resting Upon A Divine Foundation. (2:20; 3:1-5).

- A. It must rest on the foundation New Testament Revelation.
 - 1. Spirit searched God's mind. (1 Cor. 2:10, 11).
 - 2. Spirit revealed to Apostle and prophets. (3:5).
 - 3. Apostle & prophets wrote it, we read it.
- B. It must rest on human wisdom. (cf. 1 Cor. 2:5)

If can't read it, don't do it.

III. A CHURCH (Ekklesia) Making Known God's Wisdom. (3:9-11).

- A. By its existence.
- B. By its operation.
 - 1. God-ordained worship. (John 4:24)
 - 2. God-ordained structure. (Phil. 1:1).
 - 3. God-ordained work. (Eph. 4:12).

IV. A Glorious WIFE Married To A Loving Husband. (5:22-32).

- A. He loves her. (v. 25).
- B. He saves her. (v. 23).
- C. She obeys Him. (vs. 23,24).
- D. She honors Him in purity and chasity. (vs. 26,27)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you a member of his body?
- B. Are you a living stone in His building?
- C. Are you a part of His called out assembly - the church?

D. Are you married to Him?