

Pictures of the People of God

1 Cor 12:27 *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."*

The Development of the Church (Body of Christ) Eph. 4:11-16

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 29th

Reflection: We've been discussing many of the ways God describes us in His word. Some of these pictures reveal the precious nature of our relationship with Him. (The Treasure and Priceless Pearl of *Mt. 13:44-46*). Others focus on the Progression of this relationship such as The Potter and Clay (*Isaiah 64:8*) and the Shepherd and His Sheep. (*Ps. 23; 100; Jn 10*) Some of these pictures reveal the very personal nature of our relationship such as God describing us as part of the Family of God (*Eph. 3:15; 2 Cor 6:17,18*) and even the Bride of Christ (*Eph. 5:32; Rev. 19:6-9*)

A very Practical picture (analogy) often used in scripture is that we (His church) are called "The Body of Christ".

God's word is infinitely practical! He doesn't intend it just to be read, discussed, or even studied:

But to be obeyed! (2 Cor. 3:18; Ro. 12:2) Not doing so can result in:

- **Deception:** James 1:22 *"Be doers of the word and not hearers only, Deceiving your own selves!"*
- **Death:** James 2:26 *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*

Last week we learned that Church "members", like members of our natural bodies, need to grow/ develop in Maturity (*Eph. 4:11-13*)

Maturity Produces both Ability (*Ministry 4:12*) and Stability! (*Commitment 4:14*):

1. Satan is the master Manipulator.

A. He's the author of "misinformation" Gen. 3:1-5; John 8:44 "he is the father of lies"

1) He has incredible influence. 1 Jn 2:15-17; 2Cor. 4:4 *"the god of this world blinds the minds"*

1 Jn 5:19 *"The whole world lies in wickedness"* poneros': *"the wicked one"* 6x; *"diseased"*

2) He has countless "Disciples of deceit" 2Cor 11:13-15 *"such are ... deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness..."*

2. The purpose of Misinformation is Misdirection

A. He uses deception to affect our decisions and therefore our direction.

1) He seeks to infiltrate our minds (thinking) so he can influence our behavior/choices. Eph. 4:25-27

B. God Created us For His Glory (Rev 4:11) *"for your pleasure"* and our Good. (Jn 10:10; Eph. 2:10; Ro 8:28) Ps. 16:11 *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; ... there are pleasures for evermore."*

1) Satan seeks to Rob us of Both!

C. Satan seeks to rob us of both! Jn 10:10 *"The Thief comes to steal, kill, destroy"*

1) He does this through seduction! Jms 1:12-16 *"every man is tempted (peirazo: examined scrutinize) when he is drawn away of his own lust (epithymia: set heart upon) and enticed (Deleazo: deluded, entrapped)*

2) Seduction's goal is Sin. James 1:15,16 *"When Lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin (Hamartia: offend. {to miss the mark and so not share in the prize} and sin, when it's finished, brings forth death. Do not err (planao: caused to roam, drift) my beloved brethren."*

3. This will only get worse! 1 Tim 4:1-2 *"in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed*

to seducing spirits, (planos: deceiving) and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience

(Syneidesis: co perception) Seared with a hot iron" (kauteriazoo: cauterized) (see also 2 Tim. 3:1-13)

Rev 12:12 *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."* (See also 2 Thess. 2:9,10 for how this plays out)

Conclusion: The Great “Collusion”

- 1. Satan is the master manipulator.** As the “father of lies” & “god of this world”, He’s the author of misinformation, With many disciples of deceit.
- 2. The Purpose and effect of Misinformation is Misdirection**
Satan uses seductions and delusions to Move us away from God’s desire & design.
- 3. This will Grow increasingly worse.** 2 Tim 3:13 *“evil men and seducers shall wax worse... deceiving, and being deceived!”* (Planao: cause to drift, roam) Many Cults “kidnap” God’s children, Because they’re not mature/stable enough *“to discern good and evil”* Heb. 5:14.

God’s Great Solution! Spiritual Maturity produces Spiritual Stability

Eph. 4:14,15 *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”*

Application:

The Problem: Satan is the master manipulator 1 Jn 4:1 *“Believe not every spirit but try the spirits, whether they are of God: For many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

The Promise: 1 Jn 4:4 *“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world”.*

The Process: 1Jn 5:3-4 *“this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. ...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

Pistis: trust! From peitho: conviction, trust, confidence

Spiritual Maturity promotes Stability built on a foundation of faith/truth.

2 Tim. 3:16,17 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, (artios: complete) thoroughly furnished (exartizo: equipped) unto all good works.”*

Such Faith becomes our defensive and offensive weapon. Eph. 6:16-17

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

1 Jn 4:4 *“This is the victory that overcomes the world, Even our Faith!”*

Such faith is both formidable as well as foundational!

Heb. 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance (hupostasis: a setting under, aka: footing) of things hoped for; The evidence (el’enchos: proof, conviction) of things not seen.”*

Such a solid foundation of Faith enables us to become discerning. (1 Jn 4:1-6)

Notice how Jesus concluded his first recorded sermon.

1) The Choice/Challenge of the Strait and narrow gates. Mt 7:13,14

2) Beware of False Prophets vs 15-20

3) Many will be deceived. Vs 21-23 *“I never knew you, depart from me...”*

4) The wise or foolish foundations! Vs 24-27 Based on hearing and doing!

24 *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock, 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*

Satanic Storms will come!

Do you have a stable foundation of Faith that can withstand them?

