

THREE ASPECTS OF THE CHURCH

By Keith Greer

Let's briefly examine three different aspects of the Lord's church.

A Spiritual Building. "Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord." {Ephesians 2:20,21} The Lord's church is not made up of brick and mortar with four walls but with individual people. During the personal ministry of Christ, the Jews rejected Him because they thought of a "physical building" instead of the spiritual one offered and promised by the prophets of old, Daniel 2:44,45. God's people make up this spiritual building and work to help others to enter in.

One Body. "But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:15,16) What is this body? Earlier in the Ephesian letter it is defined as the church, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." {Ephesians 1:22,23}. How many bodies does our Lord have? Just one and that number will never increase, Ephesians 4:4.

The Bride of Christ. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:25-27) Paul used the relationship of Christ and the church, the bride of Christ, to the husband and wife relationship. Again, how many "brides" does Christ have? Just one and the bride must be kept from sin and be presented holy and undefiled by sin. Our Lord does not practice polygamy. Such would be the case if He has "many brides" as much of the religious world would have us to believe! Dear reader, are you a member of the one true spiritual body and bride of Christ? ***