

THE BRIDE

The Word teaches us that His Church through the centuries is being prepared as a bride for the Son. What a cool culmination of our lives of faith! Let's take a look at the things we learn about His "bride!"

The living instrument through which the living Lord Jesus Christ is represented on earth is called His Church (1). It consists of all those who have placed their faith in God the Son alone for salvation from sin, death, and hell (2). Each member has been placed by the Holy Spirit into the church which is also called the body of Christ. Christ being its head (3). Her purpose is to know God (4), make disciples (5), and become mature in Christ (6) which is practically manifested by increasing faith in God (7), hope in the future of God's ultimate redemption (8), and a love for all the saints (9). She is a living organism empowered by divine initiative (10).

The church is also an organization with leaders to whom God has given charge over local gatherings of believers (11). These men are called elders and shepherds over God's flock (12) and must give an account to God for the souls that are placed in their care (13). Added to these men are deacons who tend to the physical needs of the flock while providing support to the elders (14).

The church observes two ordinances; one which is initiatory, called baptism (15), and another which is commemorative called communion (16). These rites initiate one into the Christian life (14) and help to maintain the foundation on which the church was originally established (17).

Truth, both written and living, is a primary trademark of the church (18). She was established on the truth (19) and is also its pillar and support (20). She is opposed to darkness and evil in any form and of any kind, both in the lives of its members as well as in the world where she is called to be salt (21) and light (22).

I thank you Lord God for giving me connected life and identity as a living stone as a part of Your Son's Bride (23).

1. Ephesians 3:1-3
2. 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:3-6
3. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Exodus 20:3
4. Philippians 3:8-10
5. Matthew 28:28-30
6. Ephesians 4:11-16
7. Ephesians 1:15
8. Colossians 1:3-5
9. 2 Thessalonians 1:3
10. Acts 1:6-11
11. 1 Timothy 3:1-11; Titus 1
12. 1 Peter 5:1-4
13. Hebrews 13:17
14. 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6
15. Acts 2:37-42
16. 1 Corinthians 11:20-34
17. Matthew 28:28-30
18. Colossians 1:19-20
19. John 17:17-19
20. Matthew 16:13-20; John 14:6
21. 1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 5:13-16
22. 1 John 1:5-10
23. 1 Peter 2:4,4; Revelation 19:7,8