

BEDFORD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Family Emphasis Month



“What Should The
Church family look like”

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“We must know what
the church is in-
order-to know what it
should look like.”

**THE TEMPLE OF
GOD**

Ephesians 2:19-22
1 Peter 2:5
1 Corinthians 3:16-17
2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

**THE KINGDOM
OF CHRIST**

Colossians 1:13
Revelation 1:9
Matthew 28:18-20

**THE BRIDE OF
CHRIST**

2 Corinthians 11:2
Revelation 19:6-9;21:2

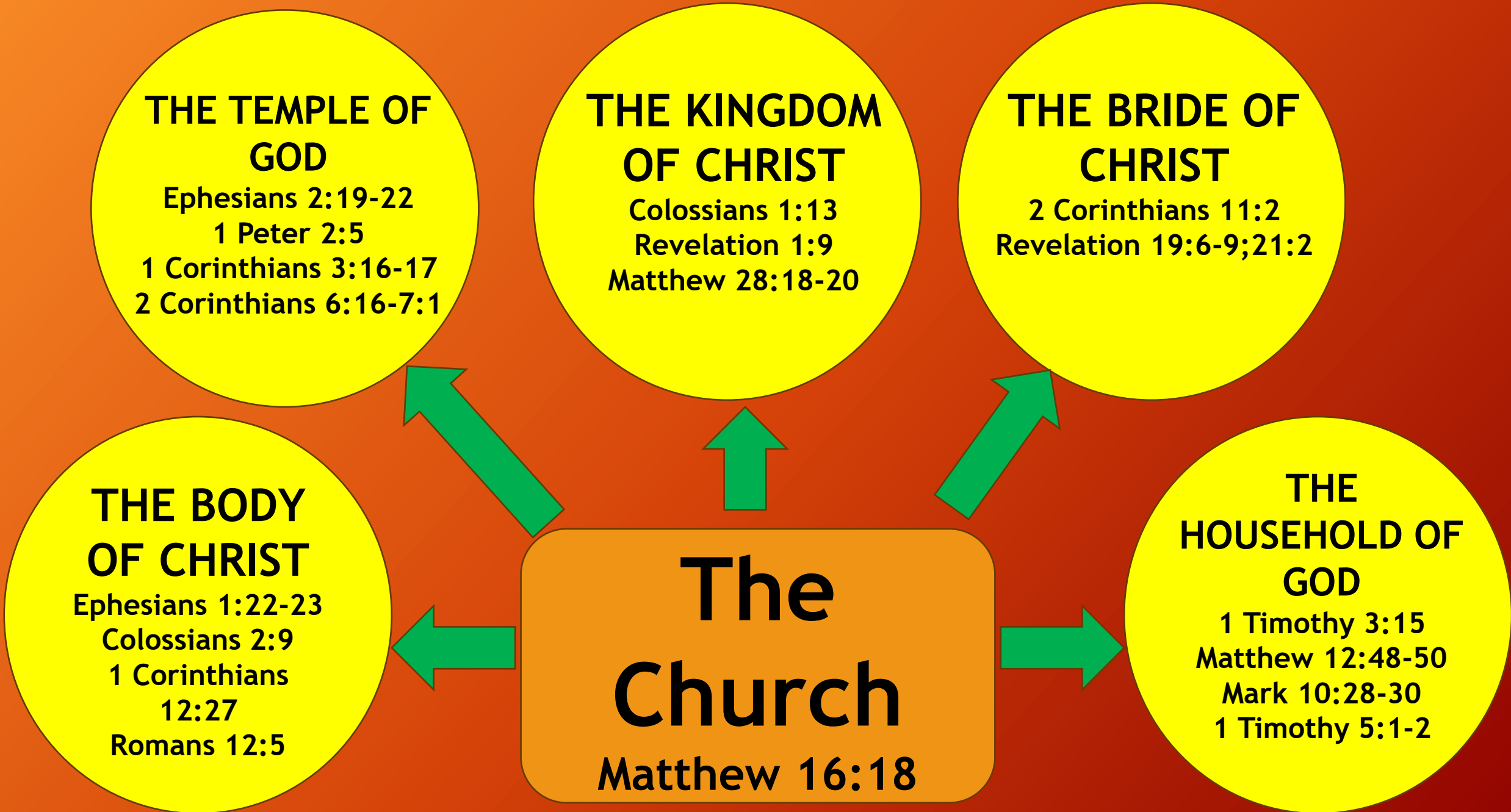
**THE BODY
OF CHRIST**

Ephesians 1:22-23
Colossians 2:9
1 Corinthians
12:27
Romans 12:5

**THE
HOUSEHOLD OF
GOD**

1 Timothy 3:15
Matthew 12:48-50
Mark 10:28-30
1 Timothy 5:1-2

**The
Church**
Matthew 16:18



“The Family of God” is a Christian concept referring to believers as children of God and siblings in Christ. This ideal emphasizes the unity and love shared among Christians who are seen as part of a spiritual family under God's fatherhood.

Family, as defined in the Bible, extends beyond mere biological connections. It embodies a covenant relationship ordained by God, where individuals are called to love, support, and nurture one another. The biblical depiction of family includes not only immediate relatives but also extended relationships within the faith community.

Biblical view of Spiritual family

- In the Bible the concept of “spiritual family” refers to the community of believers united through their faith in Jesus Christ, transcending biological relationships.
- This family is rooted in the shared experience of salvation and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The New Testament uses various metaphors like “Body of Christ” and “children of God” to illustrate this spiritual kinship.

Being born into God's Family

Note:

John 3:3-5

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

The Theological Concept of Family

During His three-year ministry, Jesus shattered some prevailing notions of what it meant to be part of a family:

- "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' He replied to him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' Pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother'" (Matthew 12:46-50).

- What He is doing is making the clear theological point that in the Kingdom of Heaven, the most important family connection is spiritual, not physical.
- **John 1:12-13KJV**
- “¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

- First: “not of natural descent”. This means that the birth spoken of here is not the result of human generation; and that is grace. Christian parents do not automatically produce Christian children.
- Second: “nor of human decision”. No one can make himself a child of God by any amount of self-determination or self-effort. No amount of decision or resolution on our part will make us members of God’s family.
- Third: “nor a husband’s will”. No man can make anyone a child of God. Only God can do that.

THE PARALLELS

Born Physically

- Physical Family

Born Again
(Spiritually)

- Spiritual Family

We are adopted into the family of God.

Adoption

(according to Roman Law)

Romans 8:12-17

“¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:12-17

(continue)

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Galatians 3:26-27

KJV

“²⁶ For ye are all the children of God
by faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as have been
baptized into Christ have put on
Christ.”

The Family of God

- **God is the Father**
(John 8:42-44)
- **Christ is the Elder Brother**
(Romans 8:16-17; Galatians 4:4-5)
- **Children of God** (John 3:3-5; 1 Jn. 3:1-2)



How is family to be seen...

How should each individual family member to be seen?

Titus 2:1-7

How Timothy as a young man should see the family of God.

1 Timothy 5:1-2

Worldly Identity Vs. Christian identity

Definition and characteristics

- The Cambridge Dictionary “who a person is, or the qualities of a person or group that make them different from others.”
- As this definition implies, identity is an individual’s answer to the question: “Who am I?”
- Every person endeavors to give a distinctive yet reasonable answer to this question, which can satisfy both oneself and others.
- Identity formation can take a lifetime as people strive to establish their identity.

Worldly identity

- First, identity is affected both by oneself and by others, and it is used to distinguish self from others—often used to prove one's uniqueness and worth compared to others.
- Second, both intrinsic(**belonging naturally; essential:**) and extrinsic (**external to a thing or not inherent to its nature**) factors influence one's identity formation.
- Third, identity is not a static but a fluid concept. In other words, personal identity constantly changes as people experience various life changes.

Compared to Worldly Identity

- Different from worldly identity, Christian identity can be defined as identity in Christ:
- How God sees a believer through Jesus Christ and His redemptive work. In other words, it is the Creator's authoritative answer to a believer's question, "Who am I?"
- Because Christian identity is a divinely proclaimed reality, it supersedes all the other identities and identity markers that a person or a group may have.



This also means that Christ's followers are more than their race, social status, gender, and nationality since their new identity in Christ supersedes all the worldly markers of identity.