

Biblical Theology

Unit 7: Doctrine of the Church – Lesson 3: Nature of the Church II

Purpose and Functionality of the Church

- The Holy Spirit uses various metaphors, while speaking through Jesus and the writers of the New Testament, in order to clarify God’s purpose and intended functionality of “the church.”
- What do the following metaphors teach us about the purpose and functionality of the church?
 - **Body** (*Colossians 1:15-18; 1 Corinthians 6:15; 1 Corinthians 12:13-22*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church’s identity, purpose and function?
 - **Branches on a Vine** (*John 15:1-8*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church’s identity, purpose and What does this metaphor teach us about the church’s identity, purpose and function?
 - **Flock** (*John 10:1-16; 27-28; Acts 20:28-29; 1 Peter 5:4; Luke 12:32*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church’s identity, purpose and function?
 - **Crops** (*1 Corinthians 3:5-9*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church’s identity, purpose and function?
 - **Temple** (*1 Corinthians 3:9-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2:5*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church’s identity, purpose and function?

- **Priesthood** (*2 Peter 2:4-9*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church's identity, purpose and function?

- **Bride** (*Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:7*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church's identity, purpose and function?

- **Olive Tree** (*Romans 11:1-24*)
 - What does this metaphor teach us about the church's identity, purpose and function?

Discussion Questions

1. Which metaphor of the church helps you the most when it comes to understanding the identity, purpose and functions of the church? Explain.
2. Where there any metaphors discussed in this lesson that shed new light on your concept of the church? Explain.
3. Have you heard of any other metaphors used to describe the church that have been helpful in your understanding the concept of the church?

Reading Assignment

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 45: The Purity and Unity of the Church