**Body of Christ**

1. 1Cor. 12:12-28 - Many members (individuals) with different uses, same goal

2. Rom. 12:3-8 - Different members (offices) all should work to the fullest

3. Col. 1:18 - Christ is the head, has all authority.

4. Eph. 1:22-23 - The body is the receptacle of all God’s blessings.

**Bride of Christ**

1. 2Cor. 11:2 - A bride is chaste.

2. Eph. 5:25-27 - Christ made the bride clean.

3. Eph. 5:30 - Unity with Christ

4. Isaiah 62:4 - “Beulah Land” (Married)

**Temple of God**

1. 1Cor. 3:16 - Unity is important (1Corinthians 1:10).

2. Eph. 2:19-22

Built upon the foundation of truth

Holy habitation for God’s Spirit

3. 1Pet. 2:5 - Living stones, spiritual house, sacrifices

4. 2Cor. - Godliness is a necessity.

**Kingdom of God**

1. Mat. 13:33 & Luke 13:20 - Also called the kingdom of heaven

2. Mat. 4:17 - Jesus taught the Jews to be ready for the kingdom.

3. Mat. 16:18-19 - Church and keys to the kingdom

4. Isa. 9:7, Acts 2:30-33, Eph. 1:19+ - Jesus on David’s throne; rules kingdom

5. Mark 9:1, Lk. 24:49, Acts 1:4-8 - Jesus: the kingdom within a generation

6. Col. 1:13, Heb. 12:22-28 - We enter into and receive the kingdom

7. Rev. 1:9 - John was in the kingdom along with his readers

8. Eph. 1:19 - Christians are fellow-citizens with all other saints

**The Priesthood of Christ**

1. 1Pet. 2:5-9 - A holy priesthood offers up spiritual sacrifices to God.

2. Rom. 12:1-2 - Christians offer up their bodies a sacrifice to God.

3. Phil. 4:18 - Contribution is a sacrifice.

4. Heb. 13:15-16 - Praise to God and good deeds are sacrifices.

**The Family of God**

1. 2Cor. 6:17-18 - We are sons and daughters of God, our Father.

2. Eph. 2:19 -20 - Household of God

3. 1Tim. 3:15 - House of God is the church: proper behavior is required.

4. Gal. 6:10 - Do good unto all men and especially to the household of faith.

**God’s Plantation (Vineyard)**

1. Mat. 13:3-9, 18-23 - The Parable of the Sower: Seed is the Gospel

2. Rom. 1:16 - The gospel is God’s power to save.

3. Phil. 1:4-5, Rom. 10:13-15 - The church teaches the gospel.

4. Eph. 3:9-10, 1Cor. 1:18-25 - The church reveals the wisdom of God.

**The Sheepfold**

1. John 10:16 - Jews and Gentiles brought together into **one** fold (enclosure)

2. John 10:7, 14 - Jesus is the door and the shepherd.

3. 1Pet. 5:1-4 - Elders are under-shepherds and lead the local flock.

4. Acts 20:28-31 - Elders watch/protect the flock from wolves (false teachers).

**Descriptions of the Church (Not Names)**

1. Acts 20:28 - The church of God

2. Rom. 16:16 - The churches of Christ

3. 1Tim. 3:15 - The pillar and ground of the truth

4. Heb. 12:23 - The general assembly

5. Heb. 12:23 - The church of the firstborn

6. Ac 8:3 - Mostly called “the church” (no name necessary: only one church)

**Comments**: (The non-denominational nature of the church)

The following observations become apparent from the passages above. The Lord’s church was not denominational in character when it was formed. Jesus intended for it to be a single body, unified in truth and love, Ephesians 4:1-16. What some call names in the New Testament were not names, but descriptions of a single body of believers. Christ’s church does not need names because Christ built one church upon one foundation, Matthew 16:18. The one church had one doctrine, Jude 3. Denominational groups would not need names if all embraced a single doctrine. Since Christ prayed for unity (seventeenth chapter of John), His followers should not be divided into hundreds of denominational groups, each one teaching a different set of doctrines and practicing a different “brand” of religion. Instead of dividing the body into many groups, we should be seeking unity through loyalty to what Christ taught, 1Corinthians 1:10. We believe in restoring the original church by following as exactly as possible the teaching and examples of the New Testament without any creeds or ideas of men. If nothing is added or subtracted to the “form of sound words,” 1Timothy 1:13; what we build today will be the church that Jesus built. In the first three chapters of 1Corinthians, Paul strongly condemned division in the church; we should be as concerned as he.