Seven Pictures Of God’s People
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —

Three Tape Series
5027    The Assembly
5028    His Body And His Workmanship
5029    The Family And The Temple Of God
5030    The Bride And The Army

The Assembly
5027

I. Introduction
A. Written by Paul alone (compare Romans, Timothy & Titus)
   1. Romans and Ephesians have a unique revelation—tremendous spiritual heights
   2. Timothy & Titus—personal father-son spiritual relationship
B. Written from a jail—we must go down before we go up
   1. Exemplified by Jesus—Eph 4:9–10
   2. Enjoined upon us all—Eph. 5:21 (compare Prov. 15:33; 18:12)

II. The Seven Pictures:
   1. Eph. 1:22—Assembly: Greek Ekklesia (compare Acts 19:32, 39, 41)
   2. Eph. 1:23—Body: The body of Christ
   3. Eph. 2:10—Workmanship: Masterpiece
   4. Eph. 2:19—Family: Household
   5. Eph. 2:21—Temple: Building
   7. Eph. 6:10–13—Army: Soldiers

III. Basic Questions:
   A. What purpose of God does it serve?
   B. What is required in our relationship to God?
   C. What is required in our relationship to each other?

IV. Assembly:
   A. In analyzing the assembly, what picture and answer do each of the following three bring forth?
      1. The assembly expresses God’s . . .
      2. The assembly requires toward God . . .
      3. The assembly requires toward each other . . .

V. Condition For Admission To Christ’s Assembly:
   A. Matt. 16:15–18—I [Christ] will build My assembly. He will only acknowledge that which He builds. Pattern of Peter’s experience:
      1. Confrontation
      2. Revelation
      3. Acknowledgement
4. Confession (compare Matt. 10:32–33)
B. John 10:1–11
   1. Christ crucified is the door
   2. Christ resurrected is the shepherd (compare Heb. 13:20)
   3. All who gain access to the assembly by any other way are thieves and robbers
C. “Zion” describes God’s people as an assembly. Heb. 12:22–24
   1. A company of angels
   2. The assembly of the firstborn
   3. Just men made perfect
      a. Ps. 110:1–2—Christ rules by His rod out of His assembly
      b. Matt. 18:15–20—Authority exercised by believers meeting and agreeing in the name of Jesus
D. 1 Cor. chps. 11, 12, 14—Paul views God’s people primarily as the assembly:
   2. 1 Cor. 11:10—Because of the angels (compare Heb. 12:22)
E. “Don’t organize—recognize!”
   1. 1 Thess. 5:12–13—Know them which labor among you
   2. 1 Tim. 3:1–13; 5:17–20—Qualifications to look for in leaders
   3. 1 Pet. 4:10–11—Recognizing each other’s “charisma”

His Body And His Workmanship
5028

I. Body
A. In looking at the body, what picture and answer do each of the following bring forth?
   1. The body serves as God’s . . .
   2. Requires toward God . . .
   3. Requires toward each other . . .
B. 1. Heb. 10:5–7—A body . . . to do thy will
   2. 1 Cor. 12:21—The head (Christ) . . . to the feet . . .
      b. Rom. 16:20—Bruise Satan under your feet . . .
   3. Rom. 12:1–6—To find your correct place in the body
      a. Present body
      b. Mind renewed
      c. Prove God’s will
      d. Humble yourself
      e. Place and function
      f. Measure of faith
      g. Appropriate gifts
4. 1 Cor. 12:12–26—Unity and diversity
   a. v. 12–13—Unity
   b. v. 14–20—Diversity
      (1) Of members
      (2) Of functions
   c. v. 21—Interdependence
   d. v. 22—Feeblest are most necessary
   e. v. 23–24—Least honorable received most honor
f. v. 25–26—Mutual concern  
5. Eph. 4:16—Joints and ligaments =  
        Col. 2:19—Relationships sealed by covenant

II. Workmanship (Masterpiece/Work Of Art)  
A. In looking at the workmanship, what picture and answer does each of the following bring forth?  
   1. Expresses God’s . . .  
   2. Requires toward God . . .  
   3. Requires toward each other . . .  
B. Eph. 3:10—God’s manifold wisdom  
   1. Various examples:  
      a. Molded  
      b. Written  
   2. Molded  
      a. Is. 64:6–8; Jer. 18:1–6—The potter uses pressure to produce the required shape  
      b. Rom. 9:20–24—The potter alone determines the use and shape of each vessel  
   3. Written  
      a. 2 Cor. 3:1–3—The world reads the lives of those to whom we minister.  
      b. This is the true expression of our “theology” (compare 1 Cor. 6:9–11)

The Family And The Temple Of God
5029

I. Family  
A. Analyze the picture of the family and answer the following questions:  
   1. Express God’s . . .  
   2. Requires God’s . . .  
   3. Requires toward each other . . .  
B. The picture of the family is central to the seven pictures  
   1. Eph. 3:14–15; 4:6; John 14:6–9—The revelation of God the Father is both source and climax of all truth  
      Rom. 8:28–29; Eph. 1:5–6—The ultimate purpose of the father is to produce a family of many sons, all conformed to the pattern of Jesus  
   2. Heb. 2:10–12; Heb. 5:6–9—Sanctification proceeds from the Father through Christ to all the sons. Because the Father acknowledges us as sons, Jesus acknowledges us as brothers, and He will continue to reveal the Father to us (compare Ps. 22:22)  
   3. 2 Pet. 1:5–7—On the foundation of faith, seven successive phases of character building:  
      a. Virtue/excellence  
      b. Knowledge (Phil. 1:9–11)  
      c. Temperance/self-control  
      d. Perseverance  
      e. Godliness  
      f. Brotherly love (Greek: Philadelphia)  
      g. Christian love (Greek: Agape)  
   4. 1 John 3:10–19—Two kinds of religion: Cain or Abel

II. Temple
A. Analyze each picture of the temple and answer the following questions:
1. Provides God a . . .
2. Requires toward God . . .
3. Requires toward each other . . .

B. The construction of the temple
1. Acts 7:48–49—God does not dwell in temples made with hands (2 Cor. 5:10)
   a. 1 Cor. 3:10–17—“Ye” (plural): The collective temple
   b. 1 Cor. 6:19–20—“Your body”: the individual temple
   c. 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1—As God’s temple, we must be holy
2. 1 Peter 2:4–5—Christ the foundation, each believer an individual stone
   a. Hosea 6:4–6—Character hewed out by God’s prophetic Word
   b. 2 Tim. 3:16–4:2—Scripture has four main uses:
      (1) Doctrine
      (2) Reproof
      (3) Correction
      (4) Instruction
3. Phil. 2:3–5—Humble appreciation of others
   b. Eph. 2:20, Rev. 21:14—“Apostles at the bottom holding us up”
   c. Rom. 15:1–3—The real proof of strength

The Bride And The Army
5030

I. Bride
A. Analyze the picture of the bride and answer the following:
1. Manifests God’s . . .
2. Requires toward God . . .
3. Requires toward each other . . .

B. The bride’s relation to Christ
1. 1 Cor. 11:3, 7—As the wife is her husband’s glory, so the church is Christ’s glory (compare Eph. 1:12; 5:26–27)
2. 2 Cor. 11:2–4—At present, as Christians, we are in the period between espousal and marriage. We have to prove our continuing loyalty to Christ. By the end of the age there will be only two groups in Christendom: either “harlot” or “bride” (Rev. 17:1–2; 21:9–10)
   a. Heb. 9:28—Unto them that look for Him (compare Matt. 25:5–6; Song 5:2)
   b. Rev. 19:7–8—Our preparation is to translate imputed righteousness into outworked righteousness (compare Phil. 2:12–13)
3. Heb. 10:23–25—Regular fellowship: mutual concern and exhortation

II. Army
A. Analyze each picture of the army and answer the following questions:
1. Manifests God’s . . .
2. Requires toward God . . .
3. Requires toward each other . . .

B. Our military relationship

1. Ex. 15:3; Ps. 24:8–10—The Lord is a military commander
   Col. 2:15; 2 Cor. 2:14—Christ’s triumph is to be manifested in His people

2. Eph. 6:10–18—Conflict and armor
   a. 2 Cor. 10:3–5—Spiritual weapons
   b. 2 Tim. 2:3–4—Endurance and commitment

3. 1 Chron. 12:23, 33–38—Perfect heart, able to keep rank
   a. *Army :: Body* Ezek 37:1–10
   b. *Army :: Bride* Song 6:4, 10
   c. *Army :: Assembly* Ps. 110:3

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