

THE BRIDE AND THE GREAT HARLOT

The Oikos & The Ekklesia

The Church

This discussion exposes The Mother of Harlots (Roman Catholic Church) and her daughters, the Protestant and Pentecostal Churches (called The Harlot for short). The two defining features of the Harlot Church is the emphasis on Church buildings and systems built by men, with a two-tiered hierarchical system of "Priesthood" (or Pastor) and "Laity" or congregation.

The Bride of Christ is basically **the household** (Greek = *The Oikos*) with the head of household, the male head (The Prophet, Priest and King of his household) under The Lordship of Jesus Christ Ephesians Chapter 5 & 6, and, the meeting together of households as *The Ekklesia* (translated as Church). Each *Oikos* (household) is therefore the centre of faith, and is the primary lighthouse of salvation for its individual members and for reaching into the community. *Oikos* by *Oikos* believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilling the dictates of the Great Commission. Matt 28: 19-20.

The Harlot. In the real world, a prostitute or harlot provides a service to men and/or women who exchange money for the sexual services requested. In the spiritual world, The Harlot draws men away from God and His son Jesus Christ, by the establishment of pagan temples to worship Satan and his demons, and, by building churches and systems using Jesus' name. The tremendous attraction of churches attests to the powerful charm and seductive power of The Harlot, which has the effect of undermining and ultimately destroying the importance of a Christian household (*Oikos*) which has Jesus Christ as its Head and everyone in the household functioning together peacefully to please our heavenly Father. Ephesians 5: 15 to the end of Chapter 6.

Almighty God says:

"Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and stroke the earth with a curse"

Malachi 4: 5-6 see also vs 4

"How often I want to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you are not willing! See your house is left desolate; "

Matthew 23: 37b - 38.

Pray for God's mercies that we do gather our children under our wings to teach them to agape their heavenly Father, our Father who is in Heaven!

Table 1 *This Table answers the basic question "Where can we find the Holy Spirit? It shows that The Holy Spirit abides or dwells in believers and their homes (Oikos) and not in Churches or Temples built by men's hands without specific plans and specifications from the Godhead. These have Satan as their head, not our Lord Jesus Christ. When The Oikos meet together or when the Oikos meets with other Oikos they form the local Ekklesia – the spiritual body of Jesus Christ.*

Table 2 The Emergence of the Harlot and The Bride of Christ - Key events in Jewish & Christian History Dramatically reveals the continuity in God's thinking on the importance of the household (Oikos) or family, particularly the pivotal role of the male head of household. The history of mankind reveals how Satan has attacked the "Head" (The spiritual Head is Jesus Christ, the human Head is the Father) – via Idolatry, military might, political domination, economic and cultural imperialism (such as New Age philosophies, Feminism). We can see today that the family as unit comprising of Dad, mum and children is breaking down. The Satanic inspired frontal attack against the family is succeeding just as predicted prior to the Second Coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Matthew 24:37-39, Luke 21:16.

Note the parallel development of two divergent systems - the church ("Christians" who wanted the reinstatement of a modified formal Temple (building) and priestly system, and The "New wine in new wine skins" Oikos and Ekklesia which is sanctioned by Holy Scripture (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17 and 6: 19-20; Acts 16:31; and, Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6).

Table 3 A COMPARISON OF THE BRIDE AND THE HARLOT - How to tell the counterfeit by comparing it to the original specifications as contained in the New Testament Some major elements of Church life are compared with "the plans and specifications" of the Ekklesia in the New Testament. This table reveals the points of differences very clearly. The emergence of the formal Church structures we have in the world today had their origins from the mid- first century via the "Christians" of Jewish origins who wanted to resurrect the Temple of the Old Testament. Towards the end of the first century on, the Judaeisers assimilated "Christians" of pagan temples. Thus the Roman Emperor Constantine was able to make himself head of the Church and marry it with the State in 312 A.D.

There are two major stumbling blocks to understanding the importance of the concepts contained in the two Greek words *Oikos* and the *Ekklesia*. The first is the existence of the Church in the first century. The Church is not The Ekklesia. There are in fact two lines of parallel development from the mid first century: one, the arm of Flesh (epitomized by The Church); and, the other the Spiritual Bride of Christ (seen in the *Oikos* and *Ekklesia*). The Groom is Jesus Christ. His Bride is essentially The *Ekklesia* (spiritual groupings of The *Oikos* both present, past, and future). Revelations Chapter 21:9 onwards reveals that the Bride is also Heavenly Jerusalem which will be established on earth. **The Church is not the Bride as this discussion reveals.**

The second major difficulty is the seductive power of the Harlot. The Church is one of the main stays ("a sacred cow") of Western civilisation and has respectability, which comes with age and longevity. What is not generally understood by Christians is that the Church is the Harlot of Revelations Chapter 17. The Harlot has tremendous spiritual attraction to entice and allure, mankind to its temples of worship as the history of the Old Testament reveals. The Harlot spirit of each church is the actual name of the church, and, for pagan temples, the name of the particular temple. Satan is alive and well and always seeking people to devour to prevent them from knowing the true living God and His Son, Jesus Christ in their homes.

The key to understanding the difference between Church and the Ekklesia lies in the definition of Church.

Please read the definition carefully.

DEFINITION: The Church "In modern English the word *church* is used in five ways: (1) a building designated as a place of worship, i.e. a church building; (2) all who profess faith in Christ regardless of particular theological beliefs; (3) a denomination; (4) a single organized Christian group; (5) the Body of Christ, the universal church. While these are legitimate uses for modern English, the word *church* is used in the New Testament in only the last two senses – a local church, and the Body of Christ. At its root, the word *church* means a 'called-out group' "

op. cit. footnote to Acts 7:38 p.1282, The New Open Bible, New King James Version Study Edition (1983) pub. Thomas Nelson. Emphasis added by writer. .

COMMENT: The word "Church" is a translation of the Greek word "*Ekklesia*". As the word Church means something much different from the original word, it is this writer's belief that we should use the New Testament Koine Greek word *Ekklesia* to refer to what God established in the New Testament, and the word Church for what man established. In the definition of Church we are presented with 3 man-made additions to God's Word (*Ekklesia*) with attendant self-inflicted curses revealed by the Holy Spirit in Revelations 22:18-19, and, disobedience to the command found in Matthew 4: 4 " *Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God* ". God tells us that " *rebellion (disobedience) is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry*" 1 Samuel 15: 23. We need to be extra careful to obey God's words, precisely and to line up our lives with His Word...

Pattern of sound words- the only basis for Christian living (2 Timothy 1:13)

The pattern of thinking which gives credence to the Church system (developed and refined over the last 1,900 years or so) is highly sophisticated. The Bible (God's words, His pattern of thinking) must be our basis for comparison (see Table 3 at the end of this discussion). .

Here is a diagrammatic summary of the key facts which sets out God's pattern of thinking which has lead this writer to the conclusions that most of us have been conned, by Church culture and the dissemination of the Church pattern of thinking down through the ages and throughout the world. Here is blatant Satanic evil at work, and at its most seductive power!

TABLE 1: KEY EVENTS IN JEWISH/CHRISTIAN HISTORY

The shift from the Temple (tabernacle or shrine) to the pre-eminence of the individual & Household (oikos or naos) as the shrine for The Holy Spirit

* *by a 'Kiwi' 28 / 11 / 00

ITEM	EVENT	ARCHITECT	BUILDER	YEARca	BENEFICIARIES	KEY BIBLE REFERENCES
<p>The Bride (Jesus Christ & His disciples/ followers) & The Harlot (Satan & his followers) depicts the spiritual battle raging over mankind – those who obey God's commands and agape Him c.f. those who disobey & rebel against Him and worship false gods, demons in the world religions...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 14:26, Romans 6:16, 2 Corinthians 6:11 – 7:1</p> <p>The battleground is Earth; the time period is the history of man recorded in the OT through to the NT, and now to the end times. Many are called but few chosen to be The Bride. Many follow after Satan.</p> <p>OLD TESTAMENT: Physical Objects and Blood Sacrifice Rituals for Jews ATONEMENT - looking forward to Jesus Christ</p>						
<p>The 1st Temple</p> <p>Garden of Eden Adam-God intimate relationship. Sin enters via Satan. Adam & Eve disobey God & cast out. OT = Law, NT=Grace</p> <p>The Law highlights limitation & imperfections of The Law & disobedience of Jews. Few are saved (righteous). Doctrine of The Remnant</p> <p>The 10 Commandments - "<i>you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all Your might</i>"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>" you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house "</i></p>						
*Ark	Flood - World filled with violence	God	Noah & Sons Righteous	?	8 are saved in world Plus animals 2x2	Gen 1 & 2 Rom 11, Matt 20:16, 2 Cor 3:6 Deut 6 c/- Eph 5 & 6, Matt 22:37-40 Acts 2, Eph 5 & 6; 1Pet 3:1-12, 2 Tim 1:5 Genesis 6-10, Heb 11:7, 1 Pet 3:20 2 Pet 2:5, Matt 24:37-38, Lk 17:26-27
Atonement	THE EXODUS (out of Egypt)	God	Moses	1445BC	Obedient ones only	Exodus Psalms 78 & 105, Isaiah 48
*2nd Temple	Wilderness tent Tabernacle	God	Moses	1440-967BC	Jews	Exodus 25-31 The Shekina glory of God
<p>Worship in Jerusalem - Jews fail Deut 6. Harlotry prevails. Hosea marries a Harlot to highlight God's abhorrence with His people</p> <p style="text-align: center;">" Set your <u>house</u> in order, for you shall die and not live "</p>						
*3rd Temple	Settlement in Promised Land	God	Solomon	967-958BC	Jews- whole nation	2 Kings 20:1 King (Hezekiah - Isaiah) Exodus & Deut. (Lasted 400 yrs)
	BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY	God	Babylonians	605-538	Jews-Judah	1 Kgs 5 - 6 Israel taken to Assyria 721BC Psalms 78 & 105; Isaiah 48
*4th Temple	Return to Promised Land	God	Zerubbabel	516-515BC	Remnant return	2 Chron 7, Jerem 39-43, Lamtns, Ezek
<p>The (shekinah) glory of God Ex40:34-38; Det 31:15 was seldom in Temples - corrupt priests, & the households/nation Ezek 22; Jer 23:11,</p> <p>Restored by Herod King Herod 20BC-70AD Jews</p> <p>" ' Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them ' (which are offered according to the law, then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second."</p>						
<p>NEW TESTAMENT: Temples and Blood Sacrifices end with the Passover Lamb - Jesus Christ</p>						
<p>"It is finished" Jesus. Temple system ends with supernatural splitting of inner sanctuary veil</p>					John 19 : 30	Heb 10:12, 19-25; Eph 2:8-10, 1 Cor 2:4-5
<p>"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do..."</p> <p>"... The Gentiles sacrifice, to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons."</p> <p>" New wine in new wineskins " - Atonement through crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> <p>..." the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands... you stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you."</p> <p>Wherever the Holy Spirit</p>						
						John 8:44a, 1 Corinthians 10:20 Matthew 9:17 Acts 7:48, 44-53 ; 17:24,22-34 Hosea 8:14, 1 - 14, 2 Cor 6:11- 7:1 John 3:8, Ro 8:1, 14, (KJV), Heb

is.....Holiness						12: 10
5th Temple Jesus Christ	" And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we beheld His glory , the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth " John 1:14					John 1:14 Luke 1:25,2:34, 40
	Cross @ Passover	God	Romans/Jews	ca.33AD	The World's people	John 2:14-22, Hebrews 9:16-28
Holy Spirit	Outpouring @ Pentecost	God	God	ca.33AD	Believers	Acts 2 :38-39, 40-47;
	50 days after Passover		God		Believers made righteous	1 Corinthians 3:16-17 & 6:19-20
6th Temple Believers	The Holy Spirit <i>Tabernacles</i> (indwells) the bodies of believers and their households					1 Cor 3:16, Acts 16:32,
	<i>"Do you not know that you are the temple (naos) of God and that the spirit of God dwells (oikos) in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6: 19-20</i>					John 2:17-25, 1 Cori 3:16-17 & 6:19-20 , John 14
God is fully revealed in history as The Father, The Son Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit- believers can be enriched in His fullness						
Changes: Back to basics - pre-eminence of Jesus Christ as Lord over the individual and household of faith Ephesians 5 & 6 Philippians 2: 9-11						Phil 2: 9-11, Eph 5 & 6
<i>" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your <u>household</u> (oikos)"</i>						Acts 16:32 , Ephesians 5 & 6, Deut 6; Acts 10; 16: 14-15,25-34
1. Physical Temple	replaced by The Holy Spirit who indwells each Believer's body & their households (oikos)					1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:19-20
2. Worship	not by geographical location but "in spirit and in truth"					John 4: 1-26
3. Meetings:	as and whenever possible, wherever " 2 or 3 are gathered together in Jesus' name "					Matthew 18: 18-20
4. Rituals	no longer necessary - each believer worships God by offering self as an offering daily					Hebrews 10,Galatians, Ro12:1-4
5. Sectarianism	forbidden - in marked contrast to the Jewish scene of Jesus' day, and the "Christian" scene today					Mark 9:38-41, 1Corinthians 3:1-17
6. Jesus Christ is Lord	- Head of each Household or family under the 'oikos' formula - reaffirmation of Passover					Acts 16:32 (Acts10 & 16:5) Eph 5 & 6
7. Promised land	now Heaven as 'Citizens of heaven' when our spirits are released from our bodies (tents)					Eph 2:19, Col 1:13, Phil 2:5-11
8. The violent	crucifixion of Jesus Christ brings peace in the spirit but also violent persecution to believers					Hebrews 11: 35-40, 1 Peter 2:21
7th Temple	For His Bride only (Babylon - The Harlot - Satan head of the false religious system - is defeated once and for all). True believers who worship God in spirit and in truth and who do the works of God are the Bride.					Revelations 21:9, (Rev 17-20) Revelations 19:17, Matthew 5:16, Timothy Chps 3 & 5, James 1:27
The New Jerusalem <i>"I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple".</i>						Revelations 21: 22
Heaven – The Eternal Garden with "pure river of water of Life". 2000?						Revelations 22
Footnotes:						
* Men, directed by God built , - the Ark, Tabernacle, Temple of Solomon, and Temple of Zerubbabel. God gave the detailed plans and specifications.						
The question is: Why are there no instructions, plans or specifications to build a Temple (Church) in the New Testament?						
Answer: The tabernacle now dwells in the body of each believer. 1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:19-20. Jesus Christ is found in believers' households Eph 5 & 6, Acts 16:32 <i>" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household "</i>						
: ** A Kiwi is a native bird of New Zealand. It is a dying breed and therefore protected. It is flightless, has poor eyes, a long beak, strong legs and claws, and lives in native bush. IT has many enemies such as stoats, feral cats, wild boars, wild dogs, and man. 'Kiwi' is also a colloquial name for a New Zealand born citizen, or a naturalized New Zealand citizen. .						
Table 1 first published 28-11-2000 A.D. 8th Revision 21-5-05						

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DISCUSSION BASED ON TABLE 1

Table 1; forms the basis for this discussion. We shall follow the table by examining selected major themes relevant to the reinstatement of the Household as the primary focus of salvation. Please meditate on the scriptures quoted. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth to you. Test all things said here by the word of God.

1. The Old Testament and The New Testament.

- Two different Wills – the Old and the New. The Old Testament is dominated by two themes – the Law (The 10 Commandments) and its dissemination through the Households (Deut 6), and the failure of the

Jews to keep this Law thereby committing them to Harlotry (worship of demons, that is, Satan **1 Corinthians 10:20**). In the New Testament Jesus summarised the Law as agape (selfless love emanating from) to God - the first 4 of the Ten Commandments; and agape, to others - the last 6 commandments. Matthew 22: 37-40. The two great commandments contain a paradox – we can only *agape* God if we *agape* ourselves first. It is only when we die to ourselves, through repentance, that Christ can live in us (and manifest His glory in us) that we can truly *agape* God Galatians 2:20. The New Testament sees the introduction of the new wine of Grace in the person of Jesus Christ John 1:14, Ephesians 2:8.

b. In the Old Testament The dominance of the Temple and the sacrifice of blood for the remission of sins (atonement system - making oneself at one with God) was a temporary, imperfect sacrificial system, which looked forward to the advent or revelation of Jesus Christ. In fact, *God established the Temple for his purposes, not for man.* 1 Chronicles 29:1, to remind men that He is Emmanuel, among men - and appear He did, in the Tabernacle and Temple. The Passover was the greatest of Jewish feasts, celebrating the last of the ten almighty acts of God. **Exodus Chapters 5 to 12.** Here, the angel of death passed over the land of Egypt at midnight. This signified the deliverance of the Jewish nation from the Egyptians. In the New Testament, the death of Jesus Christ and the shedding of His Blood on the Great Passover festival, and His resurrection, on the third day, signified the deliverance or Salvation of Mankind – for the whole world. Ephesians 1:7

2. Old Testament Temples - where the Holy Spirit (Glory of God) was found, only sometimes – because of disobedience (idolatry). These were designed by God and built for God, not for men 1
Chronicles 29: 1

The Garden of Eden - The First Temple is the Garden of Eden. God was here with Adam. Adam was filled with the glory of God, and God communed with Adam. They were “at one” with each other. This garden is the forerunner of the Eternal Garden which will be on earth when the Heavenly Jerusalem appears at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ Revelations 21 & 22.

The Old Testament is notable for the issuing of plans and specification to build several structures by God (Note: God did not issue any instructions in the New Testament to build any such structures).

a. The Ark – built by Noah. Recognised by boat builders and designers to be the perfect dimensions for a ship built to carry a cargo of animals and eight people. The Holy Spirit tells us that the ark represents baptism in water in Jesus Christ 1 Peter 3: 20-22

b. The Tent Tabernacle (the Second Temple – a portable one) – built ca.1445 B.C. by Moses for the Jews after they escaped from Egypt into the Wilderness Exodus 26-31. The Law, or 10 Commandments were written by the hand of God and given to Moses (Moses destroyed the original set when he came down from the mountain only to discover

the Jews indulging themselves in Baal worship) Exodus 32. God called the Jews “a stiff-necked people” Exodus 32: 9, Isaiah 48. We learn from 1 Corinthians 10 that the Cloud which turned into a pillar of fire at night, was none other than the presence of God, and the “rock” from which sprung an inexhaustible supply of water, was representative of the presence of Jesus Christ. Amazingly, the Jewish wanderers were dissatisfied with their lot, craving for Baal worship instead of Almighty God, Meat instead of manna etc.!! There is a gigantic lesson for each one of us today 1 Corinthians 10:11 and that is, **we** can fall into the trap of Satanic worship very easily, thinking that God will bless our actions. The seducing powers of The Harlot find ready attractions for the hearts of mankind like a magnet which attracts metal. It never fails.

c. The magnificent (Third) Temple built 967-958 B.C. by King Solomon in Jerusalem was destroyed totally by the Babylonians who conquered the Jews because of their idolatrous behaviour. Isaiah 48. This ushered in the Great Babylonian captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon was the centre of idolatry) Jeremiah 50-52. This foreshadows the Great Harlot of Babylon in latter times representing The Great Harlot – a world-wide religious movement with Satan at its head, to make war against the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ at His Second Coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Revelations 17.

d. The (Fourth) Temple built by Zerubbabel ca.516-515 B.C. when a remnant returned from Babylon to Judah to rebuild the Temple. King Herod was responsible for the reconstruction of this, finishing the job around 30 AD when Jesus Christ began His brief 3-year ministry. God despised the temple rituals when the people were walking in disobedience for both Israel in the North and Judah in the South (Amos 5:21-27, ca.750BC, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel etc). Towards the close of the Old Testament era, God makes the astounding statement that men built temples because they had forgotten their maker Hosea 8:14. **We can legitimately conclude that the propensity for men to establish churches and church buildings is directly linked to amnesia, and Satanic power to deceive.**

3. The New Testament Temples and the Holy Spirit (Glory of God).

Try as you might, you cannot find any instructions from God to build Temples or Church buildings in the New Testament. It is therefore puzzling to see the emergence of massive Cathedral structures, similar to the Old Testament “Solomon” type Temple in the beginning of the 4th Century (300’s A.D.). Who gave the orders and plans to build Churches? It wasn’t God simply because there are no such instructions in the New Testament. The other option is Satan, using men who wanted to live their “Christian lives” in the flesh!

The reason why God did not issue any instructions is that “*New wine requires new wine skins*”. Matthew 9:17. Old wine skins are hard and cannot expand. The fermentation process of new wine releases gas which will burst the old wine skins. New wine skins are fresh and pliable and will expand.

Therefore, if new wine is put into old wineskins, the skin bursts and the new wine is lost. It is only when new wine is placed into new skins that both are preserved. The New Testament outpouring of the Holy Spirit from heaven into believers cannot be contained in the old wineskin of the old Jewish Temple system. The new wine skin is the body of each believer.

It is therefore unsurprising to discover In the New Testament that the spirit of God resides not in temples made by human hands but in the bodies of believers. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 **and again in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Please note the repetition. This is a clear underlining, in BOLD for the reader to pay special attention!**

The flexibility of the New Wine skin may be seen in the survival of the Christian household (*The Oikos*) which is made-up of individuals who have the Holy spirit in them, despite unrelenting violent persecution experienced by Christians right up to the beginning of the fourth century and down through the ages.

The residence or abiding of the Holy Spirit in the household and its individual members is impermanent, as it is conditional on obedience to Jesus' words (as it was in the Old Testament) – denoted by the word “If”

“If anyone loves (agapes) Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will agape him, and We will come to him and make our home (‘meno’ abide) with him “. John 14: 23

e. The Fifth Temple ca. 30AD, is the Body of Jesus Christ. The word tabernacle (Greek ‘skene’, tent, booth, tabernacle, shrine), translated as “dwelt” is used to describe Jesus Christ’s entry into the world scene in the flesh John 2:19. The Holy Spirit was definitely resident in Jesus Christ from His conception and youth, at His baptism, and when He died - described as “He gave up His Spirit”. Matthew 27:50. Fifty Days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was outpoured on the believers in an amazing manner. Acts 2:1-4 following.

f. The Sixth Temple ca. 33AD (Pentecost - 50 days after Passover) is the body of each believer, mentioned twice in 1 Corinthians 3:16-19, and 6:19-20.

The fact that the Holy Spirit now tabernacles in the believer is stressed by the Holy Spirit’s use of the words ‘naos’ (shrine) and ‘oikos’ (house, household) in 1 Corinthians 3:16. The Greek reads literally as “Know ye not that a shrine (*naos*) of God ye are and the Spirit of God in you dwells (*oikos*)? “New wine needs new wine skins. The intentions are crystal clear. We have entered the era of The Holy Spirit! This fulfils the word that: *“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain”.* John 12:24. It is no coincidence that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred on the Day of Pentecost – the great festival of the Wheat Harvest. The one-grain of Jesus Christ manifests, in the Spirit, in a harvest of believers.

The Holy Spirit is seen to dwell in households as well as through the person of a resurrected and glorified Jesus Christ. The most notable description of Jesus as Lord of the household is found in Ephesians 5 & 6. The four major direct references to the household being the centre of salvation are found in Acts Chapters 2, 10, and 16.

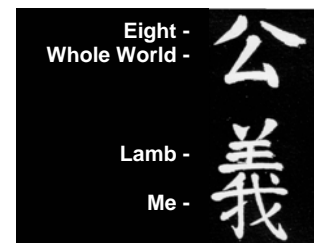
g. The Seventh Temple ca. 200?, is the heavenly Jerusalem, which is from Heaven. Jesus Christ, in the Second Coming reigns from here as “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”. The glory of God emanates from here forever. Revelations 21-22. The 1st Temple, Garden is Eden is the “Alpha” – this is the “Omega”,

4. The importance of the Household in both the Old and New Testaments.

It is notable that God usually refers to individuals in context of their households, both in the Old and New Testaments. This is important when we consider the conversion of the 3,000 men Acts 2:41 on the Day of Pentecost, swelling quickly to about 5,000 Acts 4: 4 and the consequences this had for their families, who obviously were not necessarily accompanying them if they were ‘out-of-towners’. The following are examples, which illustrate the importance of the household and the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

1. Adam and Eve. Theirs was the first dysfunctional family because of their disobedience/ sinfulness. As a result of Adam and Eve’s decision to serve Satan, their family life was less than ideal - Cain became a murderer of his own brother Abel. That act of violence set the stage for an escalation of violence in the world as it became populated until God saw fit to destroy the world in the Great Flood. Genesis 4-6

2. Noah was the only one to be found to be righteous enough to be saved – hence one household of 8 people was saved out of the whole world. Genesis 6. The importance of this example and the definition of *righteousness (or justification)* is revealed in the two Chinese words which picture graphically the word *Righteousness* - “eight” souls out of the whole “world”, have the “Lamb” over the word “me”. The state of being righteous or justified is to have, continuously, the Lamb over oneself. Romans 5. This is a simple, beautiful and powerful picture, which easily defines the words righteousness or justification. Many are called but few chosen! The word for righteousness in the Chinese language is directly associated with the household - only one household is saved in the whole world! This is a clear message that salvation is for a few households, not many!



3. The Passover – each household had to eat the body of an unblemished lamb and to splatter blood from the lamb over the door lintels. If the household was too small then it had to combine with another one to consume all the meat of one lamb. Exodus 12:1-4 ff. Since Jesus is the ultimate Passover Lamb, the direct association of the Household with this most important of Jewish Festivals is highly significant – Jesus Christ and the Household go hand-in-hand.

4. The Ten Commandments. Exodus 20, Deut. **5** the dissemination of the essence of the Law is left fair and square in the court of the household. It is the duty of the Father to teach his own family.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up..." Deuteronomy 6: 5-7 ff.

Please note that the non-compliance of the third commandment – Idolatry - Bowing down to images is accompanied with a self-inflicted family curse which is passed onto the 3rd and 4th generations **Exodus 20: 4-6**. The 6th commandment – Honouring your parents, ends with a blessing of long life. **Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 6: 16**. The curse is: to be afflicted by Demons who can now gain entry into the descendents of idolaters! For Jews who have to keep 613 Commandments of which the first 10 are the 10 Commandments (Decalogue), and our own human experience, reveals the futility of even attempting the impossible - by keeping the Law!

The Law reveals our inability to keep the Law - we keep on breaking it! We are all made acutely aware of our sinfulness Romans Chapters 1- 12:2. It is by Grace that we are saved. **Ephesians 2:8**. The Law makes us all painfully aware that we are abysmal failures if we try to get eternal life by our own efforts - the flesh! We must die to ourselves by the act of repentance. The key word to life in the Spirit is REPENT.

5. Joshua - before entering The Promised Land, thundered out a challenge to the nation when he declared:

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my household we will serve the Lord". **Joshua 24: 15**.

Notice, Joshua spoke for his household. Whilst the people repeated the words with great feeling, their actions fell far short of the declaration, as their subsequent history reveals. Today, who would be capable, let alone dare, make such a statement?

6. Rahab. Joshua 6 When God's army crossed the Jordan River to take Jericho, Rahab, a prostitute and non-Jew, helped the two spies by sheltering them. In return for her bravery, (or treachery depending on your viewpoint) she and her household plus anyone else who are in her home on the wall, are spared (saved!). God saved a prostitute and her household! The abject failure of the Jews to "serve the Lord" is highlighted by the bad examples of King Hezekiah, and King Ahab.

7... King Hezekiah was warned by the prophet Isaiah to,

"Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live". **2 Kings 20:1**

Whilst these words were directed specifically to King Hezekiah, they reverberated right through Jewish history – the Jews largely failed to teach themselves and their children to love the Lord with all their hearts, and to observe the Ten Commandments. You could say that

these words were the most important words to be remembered by Jewish Fathers. They are equally applicable for us today.

8... The Babylonian captivity ca.605-538BC – a significant number of the Jewish nation were transported away to Babylon, (it was the custom of conquering nations to take slave labour back home) because they failed to set their houses in order. God sent very clear warnings that He was going to punish His chosen ones for their disobedience by sending three prophets to warn His people of coming judgement (and this warning was given during the height of Judah's prosperity by three prophets. The Assyrians conquered the Northern tribes of Israel much earlier).

The Babylonian captivity served as a constant reminder to the Jews and Israelites that God will punish disobedience. For us today, it is a constant reminder that it is only those who endure to the end who will be saved Matthew 24:13. Salvation is an on-going walk – only the dedicated, *agaping*, who have their eyes focused on our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world and Anointed One - the Messiah - will survive the trials and tribulations of this world. 1 Peter 2:21.

9. Jesus Christ appeared briefly on the world scene ca. 30 AD. His life reveals that He was fully submitted to his foster father, Joseph, and to Mary his mother. The Jewish people were ready for change. Things in the family life were wrong – the religious despots in the form of Sadducees and Pharisees, the two major sects, had such a tight control of society that the household life was stifled by the need to keep The Commandments. Prior to His crucifixion, not even Jesus' own brothers and sisters believed that he was the Messiah (Anointed One prophesied by the ancient prophets to be coming to save His people). This was quite amazing if we assume that his family members knew the circumstances of his conception and outstanding events as a youth. Did jealousy grow so much that it turned to hatred and murder? After all, Joseph was cast out by his own brothers for just these reasons but, by God's grace, was able to save his brothers. Similarly, Jesus Christ's brothers and sisters become believers after His resurrection. John 7: 1-5, Matthew 10:36, compared to Acts 1:14, Acts 12:17

10. The Holy Spirit underlines of the importance of the households. In Acts 2 the call to repentance is accompanied with a promise of the Holy Spirit even

*"to the **children**, and to many who are afar off – as many as the Lord shall call".*

Acts 2: 39

A whole chapter is devoted to the centurion Cornelius and his household (Acts 10). Later, Lydia and the Philippian gaoler and their households are mentioned (Acts 16). To cap this all off, the Holy Spirit highlights the internal structure and dynamics of a Christian household in Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6 (see also: 1 Peter 3, 1 Timothy 3 and Titus). The role of wife is especially mentioned in 1 Peter 3 with the example of Sarah as a woman of faith and obedience to God who submitted to Abraham even though she knew he was wrong, committing the situation and Abraham to God! Genesis 20.

11... The Christian Household. (Oikos- Acts 16:31) and Ephesians 5 & 6 and 1 Corinthians 7, Colossians 3:18-25.

As the Head of his own *Oikos*, each father is responsible for the following:

- To lead an exemplary life in Christ - be holy and righteous 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 2:2, full of *dunamis* 1 Corinthians 1:18 (dynamic ministry power - to preach, heal, and deliver a person from demons Luke 4:18), and *exousis* (having the authority of Heaven to go into all nations, make disciples, baptise, and teach, Matthew 28: 19-20).
- To please his wife 1 Corinthians 7: 33. Wives are to please their husbands
- 1 Corinthians 7: 34. If both do this for each other then they will please their heavenly Father (in so doing each will have no qualms, no gripes, no mumblings for this is pleasing to our heavenly Father) Jesus did everything to please His Father. John 8:29

“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I do nothing of Myself; but as the Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him”

- To **agape his wife** (mentioned 6 times in Ephesians 5 & 6 – his wife must first submit herself to her man and *agape* her husband Eph 5:22-24, 1 Peter 3: 1-4, Titus 2: 1-7). This act of submission is the same as *agape* to the husband Titus 2:4 - the logic is simple - the act of total submission is the act of *agape* to the husband as unto The Lord Jesus Christ.
- To diligently **teach his children** to obey parents Eph 6:1-4, *agape* the Lord with all their hearts (everything) and to train and admonish them to *agape* Him. (Eph 6:4 and Deuteronomy Chapter 6, 6:7) Servants are to obey their masters.
- **To be the prophet** - to speak the words of God - see Deuteronomy 18:15, Luke 4:18, Matthew 16: 16-18, Matthew 24: 30, Mark 16:16 and Revelations 20:15),
- **To be the priest** (to minister atonement for sins in his own household see John 1:29, Matthew 26, **in the order of Melchizadek for mediation between God and man** Genesis 14:18, Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 7:23-25) and,
- **To be the king** (to rule) of his own home, his own kingdom

The three separate roles in the Old Testament were amalgamated by the person of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, and therefore, in the spiritual head of each home). Such duties are for instance: to teach his own children, to baptise members of the household; to remember to celebrate The Lord's Supper; to pray for healing, to pray for deliverance from demons and to protect his own household from all the attacks from Satan. These duties are in addition to the need of providing all the necessities for living. In other words the responsibility to save the household and keep it saved is placed fairly and squarely on the husband's shoulders, through the work of the Holy Spirit. The household is of prime importance in the plan of salvation. There is no room for any outside agency or institution to

take over any of the abovementioned functions. **1 Timothy 3, Titus, 2 Corinthians 6**

The Holy Spirit draws our attention to the fact that one spouse is enough to sanctify the whole family (for those who choose to stay in the family unit) providing the spouse gives tacit approval to the decision to become a believer 1 Corinthians 7.

Incidentally, this chapter 7 statement puts the nail in the coffin to modern day evangelical thinking in respect to the need for individual salvation even when only one of the spouses becomes a believer (the evangelical demand for all members of the family to repent individually (including children) is out of line with Holy Scripture when one or both of the parents become believers).

NOTE: For those who object to this passage, and would rather flick the page over, then all I ask is: "What do you think the problem was that Paul was addressing?" As this reply is an integral part of Holy Scripture, then the words are those of The Holy Spirit who is expressing God's own thoughts on the matter. I am merely quoting it and I am not concerned about where or not it fits into your own concepts of how and who is saved.

With few exceptions, the heart of every parent is to give of their best to their children – the gift of eternal life, and to glorify Him who saves must be the main objective for such parents.

5. *Where the Holy Spirit abides – where His Glory (doxa) is to be found* **Psa. 91**

The New Testament clearly teaches us that the Holy Spirit abides or makes His home in the each believer's Body, provided they obey and agape God. John 14:23. The knowledge of this is elementary 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17, 6:19-20. These three Scriptural references are of utmost importance. The New Testament does not teach that the Holy Spirit dwells in temples made by men's hands. Acts 7:48, 17:24. Jesus is to be found where two or three are gathered in His name Matthew 18:18-20.

The classic justification used by the Church institutional for going to Church is to be found in the words " *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together* " Hebrews 10:25a. This is an exhortation to each *oikos* (household) to meet together as an *Ekklesia* (called-out ones) , or as 2 or 3 in Jesus' name in the midst of severe persecution, and not to meet as a church (or the Harlot) temple meetings. The Holy Spirit mentions the dissolution of the Temple system in context of resisting the Holy Spirit:

"The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands,"...

Acts 7:48, Acts 17:24, 34

Repent

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you have now become the betrayers and murderers". Acts

7:51 - 52.

In light of this discussion, the extreme and incorrect statement is to affirm that God lives in a man made temple/Church in direct contravention of His Words! Our *agaping* Father God ought to know where He can be found!

Let us therefore continually offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to Him, daily Romans 12:1-4, and submit ourselves to his transforming glorious power

"we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being

transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the spirit of the Lord" 2 Corinthians 3:18

6. The Church as an Institution.

Please refer to Table 3 below which shows: A COMPARISON OF THE BRIDE AND THE HARLOT - How to tell the counterfeit by comparing it to the original specifications as contained in the New Testament

The Holy Spirit declares, twice in **Acts 7:48 & 17:24** that God does not dwell in temples made with men's hands. In **Acts 17:24**, men are to repent!

Jesus Christ did not issue any plans and specifications to build any Temple resembling those of the Old Testament. Furthermore, The Holy Spirit did not issue any commandment to build a Temple to be made by men's hands.

The early first century Christians, without a doubt, identified the Roman conquerors to be the Mother of Harlots, the incarnation of Babylon. It was Rome and her Emperors who brutally persecuted the *Ekklesia* right into the beginning of the third century. We must first clarify some key terminology, again. The word Church refers to The Great Harlot, a religion inspired by Satan from antiquity plus The Roman Catholic Church and its many Protestant "Christian" offshoots. The Roman Church was instrumental in persecuting true believers, in Europe, and for enslaving countless millions when Spanish and Roman conquistadors arrived in South America and other colonies.

The Harlot Church is in the first instance all the Pagan temples and their religions – most of which were and still are based on the worship of "fertility goddesses", offering live human sacrifices (and temple prostitution). In the Christian era, the Harlot church is the counterfeit Church organization, which will mushroom out into a super world religion, which embraces Church based 'Christianity' and pagan religions known as "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." (Upper case as in the Holy Bible) Revelations 17: 5.

Also highly significant is the fact that there is neither Biblical nor historical evidence of any of the 12 apostles building any church temples. The Temple system was abolished at the Cross with the words

“It is finished” John 19:30.

There are two basic meanings of the words "It is finished" (Greek: *tetelestai* - root word is *telos*), **namely:**

(1) The end of the Temple system - the temple veil to the inner sanctuary was torn in half, supernaturally. Jesus Christ fulfilled all that the old system stood for. Matthew 27:51.

(2) The price for our sins has been paid in full. Jesus Christ died in our place as the ultimate sacrifice for all sins - we die simply because we sin! If we accept the pardon achieved by Jesus Christ at the Cross, then we walk as free, pardoned men and women, and so do our households through participation in the Baptism of Jesus Christ (there are actually three baptisms rolled into the "one" - in Water for repentance, in the Holy Spirit for empowering and further conviction of sins; and, in Fire for holiness **see Mathew 3:11**)

Discussion of the Church in history is to discuss the Harlot and her daughters. Church history demonstrates this truism. For instance:

1. Church historians credit Emperor Constantine with the establishment of the Roman Church as a State religion in 312A.D. . . . Massive Cathedral structures, the priesthood, and the introduction of pagan practices into Christianity emerged.
2. The Roman Church claims that St Peter was its first Pope, giving itself an apostolic seal of approval. This claim has neither historical nor Scriptural basis. In addition, there is no single apostolic line in the history of the Roman Church. Paul was imprisoned in Rome where he was murdered. There is no record of any other apostle being in Rome, let alone Peter.
3. The “Reformation” never happened. It was initiated by Martin Luther on 31st October 1517 when he nailed the 99 Theses of change on the Church door of Wittenburg (the local public notice board). Church seminaries and Colleges teach that the Reformation happened citing the emergence of the Protestant movement. In fact, the Roman Church refused point blank to reform. It put a price on Luther's head, and then launched a Counter Reformation to attack the Reformers. What the Reformation produced was daughter churches to the Harlot – the Protestant Churches. Men left the Roman Church and they, or their followers established their own Churches. The Church system never left the men who had walked away from the Roman Church. The leaven of the "Sadducees and Pharisees and of Herod" remained in the ones who left the Roman Church.

The major question remains: What Church, Denomination, Fellowship or Sect can legitimately claim that Jesus Christ not only established their church, but also lives permanently in their group? This writer believes that the answer is a BOLD, *NOT ONE!*

Remember, Jesus Christ specifically forbade sectarianism – and yet we have a proliferation of sects and churches in the world today. Mark 9:38-41, 1 Corinthians 3: 1-17. Letters were addressed to Christians living in

Roman, Ephesus, Corinth, and Philippi for instance, and not to splinter groups or denominations in these cities.

Is God confused? Mystery Babylon is emerging out of the woodwork! Revelations Chapters 17-21.

Today, the Culture of the Church is so interwoven into Western Civilisation and countries throughout the world - that the world is infected with the Church virus. We are so polluted by the Church that the term Christian is synonymous with the word Church. Christians go to Church. This is deception at its best! The power and influence of the Church in its diffuse forms impacts directly to the detriment of family life and spiritual health!

The Church impacts on family life in the following ways for instance:

1. The focus of the Christian life is not on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, but on the Church (*Jesus Christ is made to become the ineffective Head of the Home*).
2. The Priest or Pastor or Church elder becomes the person family members look to for guidance, not the Husband. (*A man's authority over his own home is challenged and diluted*).
3. Church activities impact heavily on time spent together as a family – the divide and rule principle. Sunday church attendance, men's fellowships, women's fellowships, bible class, Sunday school, outreach, plus many other associated activities (*Divide and rule tactics*).
4. The spiritual responsibilities of the Head of Household and his spouse are taken over by the Church. As a result, the authority of the Husband is diminished resulting at best in a spiritual eunuch, and at worst an Ahab father (weakling who delegates his powers onto his wife) and a Jezebel wife (the power who makes the decisions) as in King Ahab and Jezebel his wife infamous for the introduction of Baal worship and the subsequent confrontation of Elijah and the 450 Baal priests and 400 prophets of Asherah. 1 Kings Chapters 18 – 22, 1 Kgs 18:19. (*The husband, and his wife are deemed responsible for everything except the spiritual life of their children – this is weird when you come to think of it*).
5. Children learn to be disobedient. If the Father is not around, the children suffer from lack of discipline and training at home (formal training, copying, correction etc.). If God wanted one parent to be solely responsible for child rearing then He would not have created the institution of marriage. The family remains the prime socialization unit of society. Destroy the family, destroy society. If you destroy the Christian family, you become a Satan family. Romans 6: 16, the whole chapter.
(*The key to a walk in the Spirit is pure obedience to God's words- see the wise man building his house on the rock (Jesus Christ) compared to the silly man who also built a house, but on sand* Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:47-49).

7. The transition from The Church to The Oikos (Household) and Ekklesia -- The Harlot to The Bride.

This can be done only by the power of the Holy Spirit whose work is to convict us of sin, righteousness and judgment. John 16:8. We must be like the Bereans who searched the scriptures to test Paul's words against Holy Scripture. Acts 17: 10-11. We must also be like the men who when confronted with their sin, in this instance, of intermarrying with heathen, repented, then immediately left their wives and children to follow YHWH Ezra 10: 15- ff. "Be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves". James 1:22

We must then allow the Holy Spirit to purge out the old leaven.

Matthew 16:6, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 5:9. Purging out leaven is like purging out the yeast from baked bread – humanly impossible, but nothing is impossible for God, The Holy Spirit.

The spark for this to happen is found in the word **repentance** – *knowing deeply in our hearts that we have sinned against God and need to be forgiven.* This is not easy for us to take. If you want to you will need to start walking into Jesus Christ – to follow Him and Him alone, by Faith, into His Glory. Romans 1 - 8, Chapter 12. It is a walk of obedience. Maybe you need to vote with your feet and do some walking after Him! Make the necessary adjustments to your life, and family life. To follow Jesus Christ is to strengthen your own household, to become a true priest, prophet and King of your own home! This is the only way you can prevent Satan from attacking your home, and to ensure that all in your household are saved and kept being saved.

”

Come out from among them

And be separate, says The LORD.

Do not touch what is unclean

And I will receive you.

I will be a Father to you, And you shall be my sons and daughters,

Says the LORD Almighty

”

Conclusion

Should a Christian go to Church? The Answer is: “No”. The Church, as an institution is man-made, not God inspired. Why go to somewhere where God says He is not? Why do the things you think will please God when he is not even where you go? In the original Greek, the word *Ekklesia* does not refer to a physical place or building – it is either a meeting, locally, of the heads of households and/or their families, and/or the world-wide spiritual body of all believers/saints down through the ages of which Jesus Christ is the Head. So, a Christian cannot go to church, by definition. A Christian already has “Christ in”.

The following two tables reinforce the discussion

Table 2 *The Emergence of the Harlot and The Bride of Christ - Key events in Jewish & Christian History* which follows summarises the whole argument, and dramatically reveals the continuity in God's thinking on the importance of the household or family, particularly the pivotal role of the male head of household. The history of mankind reveals how Satan has attacked the "Head" (The spiritual Head is Jesus Christ, the human Head is the father) – via Idolatry, military might, political domination, economic and cultural imperialism and so on. One can only surmise that as the End times quickly approaches, the breakdown of the family as a unit will accelerate Matthew 24:37-39, Luke 21:16.

Table 3 *SHOWING A COMPARISON OF THE BRIDE AND THE HARLOT - How to tell the counterfeit by comparing it to the original specifications as contained in the New Testament* Some major elements of Church life with comparison with "the plans and specifications" in the New Testament. Please note that there is no scriptural justification for the emergence and existence of the formal Church structures we have in the world today and which developed during that mid first century.

TABLE 2:

The emergence of The Harlot and the Bride of Christ **KEY EVENTS IN JEWISH & CHRISTIAN HISTORY**

The shift from the Temple (tabernacle or shrine) to the pre-eminence of the individual & Household (oikos or naos) as the shrine for The Holy Spirit and the *Ekklesia* meeting together of the *Oikos*

The Bride (Jesus Christ & His followers) **& The Harlot** (Satan & his followers) **depicts** the spiritual battle raging over mankind – those who obey God's commands and agape Him c.f. those who disobey & rebel against Him

John 14:26

Romans 6:16, 2 Corinthians 6:11 – 7:1

The battleground is Earth; the time period is the history of man recorded in the OT through to the NT, and now to the end times. Many are called but few chosen to be The Bride. Many follow after Satan

OLD TESTAMENT: *At the Great Fall when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God, men chose to worship Satan with blood of animal and people sacrifices via Idolatrous Temples with Idols and Physical Objects (direct contravention of the Third commandment " Thou shalt not worship graven images" . God established Blood Sacrifice Rituals for Israel ATONEMENT - bringing Himself to His chosen people with animal blood sacrifices looking forward to the advent of Jesus Christ*

1. NOAH - The Ark, God repented that He had created mankind. He decided to destroy man, and start again. He saw that Noah was righteous, and gave him the plans to build an Ark to save himself and his household - three sons, his wife and their wives - eight souls were saved in the Ark. The Ark represents Jesus Christ over each household - Ephesians Chapter 5. The world was repopulated by this household. Noah was a "preacher of righteousness" , that is

people had to repent of their sins, and be washed by the blood of the Lamb to escape the coming judgement - it came with the world wide flood which covered the whole earth Genesis 6-10, Heb 11:7, 1 Pet 3:20.

2. MOSES - the Tent of the Tabernacle (1440-967BC) A portable replica of the Temple in Heaven The children of Israel were made to camp in form of a Cross, three tribes in each sector. God appeared among His people seen by His shikinah glory. None could stand in His light. Formal institution of the Temple system of atonement for sins by animal sacrifices before priests of the Tribe of Levi. This temple system anticipated its fulfilment with the coming of Jesus Christ, as The Passover Lamb (fulfilling the last of the Ten Great acts of God effectively neutralising the gods of Pharaoh in Egypt. The Tent of Tabernacle was built as a place for God to manifest himself. God, there Holy Spirit was also the Cloud by day and Pillar of Fire by night to protect His people. Jesus Christ was present as the portable Rock which gave water enough for all the children of Israel and their animals - well over 1 million people

Exodus 25-31

3. DAVID - the Great Temple at Jerusalem (3rd Temple) King David was not allowed to build the Temple in the "Promised Land" because he had "Blood on his hands" - as a man of war, and his murder of Uriah after his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba David's second son **King Solomon, a 'Man of Peace'** (967-958BC) built the Temple. Under King Solomon Israel was fabulously wealthy - the Temple was the most magnificent construction of the Ancient World - it was lined with pure gold, and its utensils were of pure gold. No Government since then has been capable of constructing of such a building. Again, the Temple was built for God to inhabit - Emmanuel - God amongst us!

DESTRUCTION OF THE GREAT TEMPLE - THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY 605-538BC

King Nebuchadnezzar swooped upon Jerusalem and totally destroyed the Temple, and carted the gold fittings along with many captives to Babylon. Three major prophets warned of the coming destruction at the height of the Kingdom - unless the people repented of their sins. Their message fell upon disbelieving and incredulous ears.

Exodus, Psalms 78 & 105, Isaiah 48 1 Kgs 5 - 6 Israel taken to Assyria 721BC Psalms 78 & 105; Isaiah 48.

4. Zerubbabel - Post Babylonian Temple (4th Temple) 516-515BC

was twice as large as the Pre-Babylonian one, and very impressive. It restored the Temple based sacrificial system with priests. Remnant return

2 Chronicles 7, Jeremiah 39-43, Lamentations, Ezekiel

The (shekinah) glory of God Ex40:34-38; Det 31:15 was seldom in Temples - corrupt priests, & the households/nation Ezek 22; Jer 23:11,

Haggai, Zech., Ezra (Lasted 500 yrs)

400 YEARS GAP BETWEEN OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

Worship in Jerusalem - Jews fail Deut 6. Harlotry prevails. Hosea marries a Harlot to highlight God's abhorrence of His people

Zerubbabel's temple Restored by the Roman King Herod 20BC-70AD

John 2:14-22 (Lasted 90yrs)

" ' Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had

pleasure in them ' which are offered according to the law, then He said,

Hebrews 10:8, 5 - 39, Amos 5:21-27

'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second."

NEW TESTAMENT: (5 BC to 33AD) Temples and Blood Sacrifices end with the Passover Lamb - Jesus Christ

John 19:30, Matt 27:51, Heb 9:10-19

The Temple as a building & system of "worship" where The Holy Spirit, God is not, and where Satan reigns

The shift of the Holy spirit to the Body of each believer, and The *Oikos* where Jesus Christ reigns

"It is finished" Jesus.

" New wine in new wineskins " - 5th Temple Jesus Christ's Body

Atonement through crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
Matthew 9:17

(1) Temple System ends with the supernatural splitting of the inner sanctuary veil allowing entry *into the Holy of Holies*

(2) Shed blood of Jesus Christ ends

Luke 1:25,2:34, 40

sin offerings - the price of all sins is fully paid up by Jesus Christ on the Cross. Mankind has been redeemed By Jesus Christ own shed blood.

Matthew 27:51, John 19:30, Heb 10:12, 19-25;

Eph 2:8-10, 1 Cor 2:4-5

" And the Word became flesh and dwelt (**tabernacled**) among us, and we beheld *His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the full of grace and truth* "

John 1:14 ,

" destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up"

John 2:19

ENTRY INTO THE WORLD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, HARVEST OF WHEAT FESTIVAL (33AD - 300AD)

6th Temple - The body of each believer is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6: 19-20 Confirmation that each person has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

"Do you not know that you are the temple (naos) of God and that the spirit of God dwells (*oikos*) in you?"

1 Corinthians 3:16

John 2:17-25, **1 Cori 3:16-17** & 6:19-20

Confirmation by The Holy Spirit that God does not now dwell In temples made by men's hands Acts 17: 24

Back to basics - pre-eminence of Jesus Christ as Lord over the individual and household of faith

Ephesians 5 & 6 Philippians 2: 9-11

" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household (*oikos*)"

Acts 16:32, Ephesians 5 & 6, Deut 6: Acts 10; 16: 14-15,25-34

Establishment of two parallel lines of development

The Flesh Line (power of man) or Ishmael

The Holy Spirit Line or Isaac
Galatians 4:21

EMERGENCE OF THE OLD JEWISH TEMPLE SYSTEM

True Christians are persecuted

COMBINED WITH PAGAN TEMPLE WORSHIP BY "CHRISTIANS"

Galatians (whole letter is concerned with the Inappropriateness of ceremonialism, or the resurrection of the Temple cultus

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do..." John 8:44

"... The Gentiles sacrifice. to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons."

1 Corinthians 10:20

"the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands you stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears.

Acts 7:48, 44-53 ; 17:24,22-34

down through the ages as they follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:7, 2:21

"Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned; they were sawn in two, were tempted, and were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins Being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these having obtained a good Testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not

"You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you." Be made perfect apart from us." Hebrews 11: 35- 40

People who have forgotten God build temples (see Hosea 8:14, 1 - 14, 2 Cor 6:11-7:1, John 3:8, Ro 8:1, 14, (KJV), Heb 12: 10. In addition, under the unction of the Holy Spirit, Paul writes to the Romans with a comprehensive dismantling of the Legalist's who promoted the Temple system and keeping of The Law of Moses with the message of The Cross and salvation by Grace and Faith in a resurrected Jesus Christ.

Gap of about 200 years to the emergence of the Roman Emperor Constantine

By the end of the first century Christians were divided into two camps - the ceremonial, Temple based comprising of former Jews, and Pagans who had re-established the old Temple system. True believers, *the Oikos* and *the Ekklesia* suffered violent persecution right up to the time of Emperor Constantine. He amalgamated the West and Eastern Roman empire, and combined the existing formal Church with the State to legitimize His mandate from Heaven as God-King worthy to be worshipped (as of the Roman Emperors of Old). The emergence of the massive and awe-inspiring Cathedrals and the establishment of the two-fold of Priesthood and Laity. Liturgical Mass, Sermons, Scripture in Latin - not understood by the serf populace who were ruled with a rod of iron by the Roman Church. Thus The Mother of Harlots was established, formally, by Constantine.

Martin Luther 31st October 1517

Nailed the 99 theses to the public notice board, The Church door of Wittenburg. Culmination of a reform Movement. Luther demanded Reformation of the Roman Church under the cry: "Sola Scriptura", and, "The Just shall live by Faith". Luther gained courage to do this because Jesus Christ appeared and spoke to him. Church traditions (traditions of men) have no place in New Testament teaching. The Pope's rule was challenged by Jesus Christ. The Roman Church did not reform, and launched a vicious counter-Reformation debate based on misinformation - see The Soletto

Letters. Luther inherited a price on his head. Emergence of the daughters of the harlot Mother with Protestant movement and resulting proliferation of denominations. E.g. Church of England (Anglican), Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Calvinism, Ana Baptists, Methodist, Brethren, etc. Today - Pentecostal -Assemblies of God (AOG, Elim, Apostolic) etc

7th Temple

For His Bride only (Babylon
- The Harlot - Satan head of the
false religious system - is defeated
once and for all) Revelations 21:9,
(Rev 17-20)

The New Jerusalem "*I saw
no temple in it, for the Lord God
Almighty and the Lamb are its temple*".
Revelations 21: 22

**Heaven – The Eternal
Garden** with "pure river of
water of Life". 200_?
Revelations 22

* Men, **directed by God built**, - the Ark, The Tabernacle, The Temple (of Solomon), and The Temple of Zerubbabel (post Babylonian captivity). God gave the detailed plans and specifications.

The question is: Why are there no instructions, plans or specifications to build a Temple (Church) in the New Testament?

Answer: The tabernacle now dwells in the body of each believer. 1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:19-20. Jesus Christ is found in believers' households Eph 5 & 6, Acts 16:32 "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household*" The *Oikos* or households meet together as the *Ekklesia*, the Bride of Christ.

TABLE 3 SHOWING A COMPARISON OF THE BRIDE AND THE HARLOT

The Original Ekklesia and The Counterfeit Church

	THE BRIDE		THE HARLOT
20 Identifying Criteria	(The Original)		(The Counterfeit)
1.Description	Holy Jerusalem of Heaven of God	Rev 21:9-27	A Scarlet Woman
		Rev 17	Seated on scarlet Beast on Earth
		Rev 18:4	" Come out of her my people lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive her plagues"
2.Members	Those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life	Rev 21:27b	Those that defile, cause an abomination, Or a lie.
	" called, chosen, and faithful " Outside Christ no salvation	Rev 17:14b Acts 4:12	"Outside the Church no salvation"
3. Membership Requirements	Repentance – dying to self Gal 2:20	Matt 3:2 Lk 13:3	Attending Baptism Classes
(not an exhaustive list)	proving repentance- showing fruit	Lk 3:7-14	Baptism in Water
	Baptism in Water – full immersion	Mt 3:11	Baptism into The Church - any form Total immersion, 'sprinkling', partial immersion
	Baptism in The Holy spirit	Mat 3:11 Acts 2	Act of Baptism confers Holy Spirit
	Baptism in Fire – "Christ also suffered, leaving us an example; that you should follow in His steps."	Mt 3:11 1Pet2:21	Conformity & Acceptability Avoids rejection, controversy, Pain and suffering
	Following Jesus Christ	2Ti 3:12, Heb 5:8	Go to Church regularly
	Carry Cross daily	Mt 10:38,	Wear a Gold or Silver Cross
	Leave all to follow	Lk 14:33	Leave all to the Church, &

	Jesus		Follow the Church
	Known as 'Sheep' – various flocks Jo10:16 who know Jesus' voice.	Jo 10 Mt 25:33	<i>Known as 'Church of _____ members', Goats</i>
4. Fellowship	True fellowship is where the Holy Spirit is.	2Cor 13:14	At Church where the Spirit Of "God" is
Oikos – Household	Oikos'- household, family or	Acts 16:32	Church, church gatherings Church family
Koinonia-Fellowship	2 or 3 gathering in Jesus Christ's name	Mt 18:20	The larger the better in The name of your Church
			Home groups
5. Membership fees	Freely as you have	Mt 10:8	
	Received so freely give	<i>Malachi 3:8-12</i>	Tithes = 10% Old Testament teaching
	No earthly buildings	Jo 10:1	Church uses money to keep system going & invest in Real Estate with huge assets
6. Proof of Membership	Baptism in Water, in Holy Spirit, in Fire. Signs following: Casting out demons	Matt 3:11 Mk 16:17ff	Baptism Certificate, Confirmation Certificate, Church attendance, Leadership/Offices Held, Service/help record
	Speaking in tongues, Immunity to snakes, poison, healing sick, lepers, raise the dead. Making disciples-	Mt 10:7-8 Mt 28:	Evangelising to increase Church membership – (read – income base)
	Baptising, Teaching in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit 18-20		Or build sister churches
	Fruit by their fruit you shall know them	Mt 7:16 Lk6:43-55	Large monetary donations. Wealthy people with Status/position
	Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,	Gal 5:22-26 Gal5:19-21	<i>Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions,</i>

	Faithfulness, gentleness, Self-control, ...those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires...live and walk in the Spirit		<i>jealousies, outbursts of Wrath, selfish ambitions, Dissensions, heresies, envy, Murders, drunkenness, revelries</i>
7. Allegiance	To Jesus Christ 100%	Mt13:44, 45-46	To Church & Hierarchy Led by men/women & rules
	Each Believer led by	Ro 8:1,	And regulations to maintain
	the Holy Spirit	Gal 5:25	church discipline
8. Church	Grk = called out – of	Jo 2:19	Must go to Church
Ekklesia= “called out’	Temple, World, extended family, into own nuclear Household/family- Husband/Jesus as Head.	1Cor 3:9-17, 6:19-20	Worship - called out of world Into a Church ‘family’ with Priest or Pastor/ Pope or Bishop As Head
	You cannot go to 'Church' in the New Testament. The “Church’ or Holy Spirit is in you		Mixture of Old & New Testament = error & confusion
9. Holy Spirit	Holy Spirit dwells in believers' body – and Controls totally.	1Cor3:16, 6:19-20	Holy Spirit dwells in Churches
		<i>Hosea 8:14a</i>	<i>"Israel has forgotten his maker, And has built temples"</i>
		<i>Hosea 8:4-5</i>	<i>They set-up kings but not By Me; They made princes, And I did not acknowledge</i>
			<i>It...From their silver and gold</i>
			<i>They made idols for themselves - that they might be cut off.</i>
			<i>Your calf is rejected..."</i>

10. Worship	Sacrifice to Agape (Love-emanating from God Jo3:16, 1Jo3:16 as a sign of obedience	Ro12:1-2 Gen 22	Present yourself to Church for: Prayer, Singing, Reading Scripture,
	“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and contrite heart-“ “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it produces much grain” “ to obey is better than sacrifice”	Ps 51:17 Jo 12:24, 24-26 1Sam 15:22	Preaching, Giving Tithes & Offerings, Testimonies, Evangelistic Services etc. Sacrifice everything for the church. Preserve the old self, then try to live the churchianty life. The “no die” or Crossless Gospel.
	In Spirit & Truth	Jo 4:24b Jo 8:30-59	Religious people Worship Satan
	The Lord's Supper	1 Cor 11 “ As often..v26” v.17-34	Holy Communion – weekly Or monthly, ritually
	“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death or of obedience to righteousness	Matt 15:9 Ro 6:16 Matt6:24	<i>And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”</i> <i>No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon</i>
11. Teaching	The Holy Spirit "will teach you all things, and bring to	Jo 14:26 I Tim 3:7	<i>" Always learning & never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”</i>
	Remembrance all things that I said to you"	Jo 14:6	Bible studies, Video tapes, Cassette Tapes, Seminars, Guest

	Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"		speakers, Men's Fellowships, Women's Fellowships, Camps, Books – etc. to Keep you occupied and very busy so that You have no time to enjoy the company Of Jesus, your wife & children.
12. Day of Worship	"..let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."	Col 2:16-17	Sunday's the day, Many festivals e.g. Christmas, Easter etc. Sabbath Day as in 7 th Day Adventists
13. Frequency of Meetings	Whenever 2 or 3 meet in Jesus' Name as the Holy Spirit leads & commands	Mt 18:20 Gal 5:25 Jo 3:8	Once a week Service -Bible study, Home Group -Evangelistic meetings, Seminars, etc.
14. Salvation	Salvation in name of Jesus Christ	Acts 4:12,	"Outside the Church no salvation"
	."at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow..."	Phil 2:9-v10	Bow before Pope, Bishops, Priests, Men etc
15. Priesthood	Of all believers Jesus Christ The	1 Pet 2:5	Priest, Pastor, Elder, by -'Special Calling', 'Training'-
	High Priest Jesus Christ mediates between God & Man	Heb 4:15, 10:21 1 Tim2:5	"Apostolic succession" conferred By Pope, Bishop, Elders, etc. Priest between God & Man = 'Medium' (of Satan)
16. Structure of Fellowship	Grk 'Kononia'= Fellowship of Holy Spirit	Acts 2:42	
	Leaders blameless,	Titus 1:5-9	Men who pass Church selection

	married to one wife, faithful Children, not accused of debauchery or insubordination, blameless, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, hospitable, etc.	1 Tim 3	Process, University degree plus Seminary or Bible College degree
	Meeting of Households- 'oikos' with 5 fold ministry: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers – self-supporting	Eph 4:11	Ordained Priests or Pastors, Church workers – all paid
	Submission / 'Doulos' Slave Model	Mt 20:25-28 Eph 5-6	Hierarchical/ Pyramid/ Authoritarian Model
	True 'Shepherds', Elders – 'the labourer is worthy of his wages' 1 Tim 5:17-18	Jo 10 Ezek 34	Hirelings – work for selfish Interest, money Irresponsible/False
17. Authority	2 Greek words (1) " Exousia" = authority from Jesus	Mt28:19-20, Mk 16	Church Authority based upon false Apostolic succession. Mainly Powerless, useless but pleasurable
	(2) " Dunamis" = dynamite power	1Cor1:18-19,2:4-5	
	Both authorities evidenced by preaching of repentance. Healing. Deliverance – Jesus work (PhD ministry)	Mk 16 Mt 28 Mt 10:7-8 Lk 4:18	

18. Church Growth	Doctrine of Remnant "Many are called but	Mt20:16	The larger the better
	Few chosen" 8 saved in Ark Narrow gate – few Quality “Be holy, for I am holy” or 3 gathered in Jesus' Name	Ro 11 Gen c6-9 1Pet3:20 Mt7:13-14 1 Pe 1:16 Mt 18:20	Success=Large Congregations Wide gate – many Quantity Home groups linked to church”
	Israel's rejection not total 'a remnant according to the election of grace'	Ro 11 Ro 11:5	Salvation through good works, Fleshly efforts
19. Evangelism sends supports	The Apostles and evangelists and believers went out as they were led by the Holy Spirit. They were Literally sent-out by the Angels, the Holy Spirit, or scattered by persecution	Acts 13:4 Acts 5:18 8:26,10:7 Acts 8 Acts 8:1 Acts9:23, chpt12 Acts16:26	The Church trains and out its evangelists and them financially etc.
20. A Blessing	The remnant are blessed	Rev 22:17 Rev 22:18-19	Cursed These have added & subtracted to the Word of God and live by The Word of God mixed with Satan's' or Men's words.

Note: This chart was 'prompted' by a newspaper article which appeared in the New Zealand Herald on Wednesday March 26, 1997 p.D1 encaptioned: "Bank detects 800 forged notes". It lists 7 identifying marks of a genuine \$20 note (See Appendix2). I have presented 19 features for identifying the Counterfeit Church. Perhaps you can add some more?!

THE BRIDE OF JESUS CHRIST

A discussion of The Bride has been omitted from all previous drafts of this discussion. It is now time to make the discussion more rounded, for a fuller understanding on what we all must do. (The discussion is based on sharing by Derek Prince: "The Bride Prepares Herself").

We find the key reference in Revelations 19:7-9

*" Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of The Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
Then He said to me (John), 'Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of The Lamb!' And He said to me, These are the true sayings of God."*

Jesus' wife, The Bride is ready! We individually, and by our *Oikos* (households), the Bride of Christ. We are clothed in " *fine linen, clean and bright* " -white brand-new clothes of righteousness, fitted, tailored, especially for her. Every Bride has a full gown, looks stunning and radiant. After all this is The Day she has been waiting for all her life! She is about to marry her loved one, the one she has been saving herself for, The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords - Jesus Christ! Our gown is literally putting on The Lord Jesus Christ Romans 13:14

The "*fine linen*" is the righteous acts the saints. As we have learnt, righteousness is having The Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) over Me. The righteous acts are therefore those acts we have done with our hands in Jesus' name to please our heavenly Father.

Remember each individual and each *Oikos* is to be a shining light in a world full of darkness, a Lighthouse or House of Light reaching out into the community, bringing people into the Kingdom of God - individuals by individuals, *Oikos by Oikos*.

Matthew 5: 16:

" Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven "

For instance, in the **nations (for individuals in each *Oikos*- since a nation is made-up of it's' citizens and households)**

Matthew 25: 34-40 instructs us

" Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you fed me food;

*I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;
I was a stranger and you took Me in;
I was naked and you clothed Me;
I was sick and you visited Me;
I was in prison and you came to Me."*

Then the righteous will answer Him saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?

And the King will answer and say to them,

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me.' "

Failure to do all this results in hell fire and damnation Matthew 25: 41-46

Prayer: Lord, give us humble hearts and minds to receive your words of life,
empower us to follow you and live by your words, now!

For *The Ekklesia*

Looking after orphans and widows is the priority.

James 1:27

" Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this - to visit the orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world"

1 Timothy 3:1- 13. Rulers - 31 Criteria to be fulfilled by a man and his wife

Please read this from your own Bible. The instructions for men who are rulers of their own households is, as clear as a bell !

To be an overseer (of his own home and of *The Ekklesia* A man and his wife must past the following 26 tests.

The man must be:

- (1) Blameless v.2
- (2) The husband of one wife v2
- (3) Temperate v2
- (4) Sober-minded v2
- (5) Well behaved v2
- (6) Hospitable v2
- (7) A Teacher v2
- (8) Not a heavy wine drinker v3
- (9) Not violent v3
- (10) Not greedy for money v3
- (11) Gentle v3
- (12) Not quarrelsome v3
- (13) Not covetous v3
- (14) Rules his own house well v4 A Ruler!
- (15) Children must be in submission and reverent v4
- (16) Not a new convert (novice) v6
- (17) Has a good testimony in the community (a truly repentant sinner) v7
- (18) Reverent v8
- (19) Sincere -Not double-tongued v8
- (20) Has a pure conscience - holds the mystery of the faith purely v9
- (21) Is proven -has practical experience in serving others as a slave of Christ v10
thoroughly tested - puts his money where his mouth is)
- (22) Bold in the faith in Christ Jesus v13

The man's wife must be

- (23) Reverent v11
 - (24) Demure -Not slanderers v11
 - (25) Temperate v11
 - (26) Faithful in all things v11
 - (27) Submissive in everything Ephesians 5: 24
 - (28) Chaste in conduct accompanied by fear 1 Peter 3:2
 - (29) Beauty *not in outward adorning of arranging the hair, of wearing gold, or of putting on fine apparel* but let it be seen in *the hidden person of the heart* 1 Peter 3: 4 & 3
 - (30) Gentle and quiet spirit which is very precious in the sight of God 1 Peter 3:4
 - (31) Obedient to her lord (husband) 1 Peter 3:6
- For a detailed description of the Virtuous wife see Proverbs 31: 10 - 31.

Widows - 8 Criteria for selection of widows worthy to be supported by *The Ekklesia*

1 Timothy 5: 9-10. Read following verses as well from 10 - 16.

To be qualified as a widow who is to be taken into the care of *The Ekklesia* she (1) must be over 60, (2) she was the wife of one man, (3) well known for doing good works, (4) has brought up children, (5) has lodged strangers, (6) has washed the feet of the saints, (7) helped the afflicted, (8) diligently followed every good work. These are very strict guidelines!

The Bride must be ready for The Groom

We must have done all the things which please our heavenly Father before Jesus Christ comes in His Glory as The Messiah. All the preparation has been done. We must be like the 5 virgins who waited, patiently and expectantly, with oil in their lamps, for The Bridegroom to come. Matthew 25: 1- 13 contains the story of the 10 virgins - 5 wise and 5 foolish - 5 of whom had oil in their lamps, and 5 who had none. The oil is obviously real oil to provide light. It is also symbolic of The Holy Spirit in us - groaning, longing for the Groom to come Romans 8:23, 26 .

" Watch therefore for you know neither the day nor hour in which the Son of Man is coming"
Matthew 25:13

We must therefore live each day as if Jesus Christ is coming again tomorrow, and plan sensibly as if He will come in the future. Be prepared. Be ready for The Bride's Groom.

The Bride, the Lamb's wife, is also the Holy Jerusalem according to Revelations 21: 9-10 which will be established on earth at the Omega (end) point in world history, that is when the new heavens and new earth is established. Revelations 21:9- Chapter 22:21

A VISION FROM OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S HEART

- + That we agape our Heavenly Father with our bodies
and everything within us John 5:30b
- + That we seek to do His will in all. Matthew 6:10
- + That we establish Him, His Son our Lord and Saviour Philippians 2:10-11
Jesus Christ, and His Holy Spirit in our bodies, 1 Cor 3:16-17
The Temple - His dwelling place. 1 Cor 6:19-20
- + That we offer ourselves to Him as living sacrifices daily. Romans 12:1-2
- + That we carry our own (heavy) Cross daily. Matthew 10:38-39
proving that we die to ourselves daily and Galatians 2:20
we always carry about in us the dying of the Lord Jesus, 2 Corinthians 4:10
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested within us
- + That we establish Jesus Christ as The Lord of *The Oikos* Ephesians 5:15-6:18

(our own household) sharing *Koinonia* (intimate
participant sharing of things of The Spirit of God), 1 Corinthians 1:9
and The Lord's Supper and His Holy Word to make 11: 23-34
disciples of our own children and household members
- + That in our own *Oikos* we will share our heavenly Ephesians 5:23
Father's agape with our friends, neighbours, and
community as reflectors of His Light and glory. 2 Corinthians 3:18:
- + That we will meet with other *Oikos* as an *Ekklesia* Hebrews 10:19-25:
to encourage one another, even more so as we see
the imminence of the Messiah's Second Coming.

That in doing all these things we participate in the work of The Great Commission

" *Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,*
' All exousia (authority) has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
Go therefore and
make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;

and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen "
Matthew 28: 18b - 20

Comment: The highest honour among men is to represent a country as Ambassador. Yet, all true believers represent the Kingdom of God - an even higher honour. We have the honour of bearing the badge, signet ring of the Lord Most High God, to do all things in His name. What an honour! What authority!

Send me O Lord.....

"to preach the gospel not with the wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the

cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the dunamis (power) of God "

1 Corinthians 1 17b - 18

Comment: We also have tremendous power to do His will - power over demons, power over all illness and sickness, power to heal the blind, cripple; power to preach the word in season. We do not need to fear when we do God's work through the resurrection power of our Lord Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit. We have the exousis power (authority) and the dunamis power (like dynamite) to beat down the gates and fortresses of hell in the mighty name of Jesus Christ ! It is interesting that in Ephesians chapter 5, the discussion on the inner mechanisms of the *oikos* is immediately followed by the revelation of the power of the spiritual armour and of spiritual warfare! It is patently obvious that the ruler of the household is the human protector of his own household and lives naturally in spiritual power! Absence of spiritual power and spiritual authority reveals an "Ahab" ruler - a person who moves by "flesh" and not led by the spirit of God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This discussion has arisen from my Christian walk from the age of 27 in New Zealand, with a short stint of three years in Singapore. I am now 60.

There are many who have spoken into my life by the Grace of God. These saints - men and women - know who they are (more importantly, our Lord God knows). My humble thanks for your obedience.

To my dearest, darling late wife, who has been called home to glory and is at peace. She stuck with me through all the trials and tribulations, tears, shame, hardships and persecutions, we had to endure for the sake of The Cross. She raised up our three lovely sons, often alone with our eldest two, without my much needed help. It is they, now, who help, strengthen, encourage and comfort me in this lonely walk of Calvary, which we are all called to walk. We are currently enjoying *The Oikos and Koinonia* which comes from the warmth, *agape* and intimacy of a very close knit family. We now need to move on into *The Ekklesia*.

This latest revision has been done following a Mission Trip to Singapore and Hong Kong 29 April to 14 May 2005, where the Lord Jesus Christ revealed new wine and new wineskins to me through some beautiful Christian brothers and sisters. Out of the wilderness and into the world again.

The brothers introduced me to the ministries of
Gene Edwards - see Websites: <http://www.seedsowers.com/catalogue/index.php>
and
Frank Viola of the United States of America <http://www.ptmin.org/history.com->

Our Lord has shown these men much concerning the Church system much earlier. They have much greater understanding and practical knowledge than I. It is immensely greatly encouraging to know that the Holy Spirit reveals truth to anyone He chooses - wherever and whenever. We are slaves to one God, one Lord Jesus Christ, and are led by the same Holy Spirit to obey His promptings.

Secondly, a Christian sister, kindly arranged to meet with me and then forwarded her script on "The Harlot and The Bride" (note the reversal of the title as something complementary)- the Lord has shown her how dangerous the spirit of the Harlot is, as a spiritual prostitute, seducer, Jezebel (with the effect of making women rulers over men, and making men as Ahabs - men who are spiritual eunuchs who look like men but will not assume their rightful roles as rulers of their own homes), networker in the demonic world, allurer, enslaver, enticer, a witch who casts magical spells over people, causes homosexuality and lesbianism, Queen of Heaven as in Mariology, worship of Ashoreth or Asherah, Quan Yin (Goddess of Mercy).

The Harlot has a strong grip on many men and women in this world, and will stop at nothing to keep mankind firmly in her enticing grasp to ensure they go to Hell.

Praise the Lord that all the works of Satan have been nullified at The Cross of Calvary by Jesus Christ's shed blood.

To my Lord Jesus Christ, my redeemer, my King, I give all glory to thee.
Hallelujah!

END.

First published 28-11-00, 1st Revised 4-12-00, 2nd Revision 16-12-00, 3rd Revision 6-5-02, 4th Revision 15-5-02.
5th Revision 12-11-02 6th Revision, 7th and now 8th revision 21-5-05.

The writer would appreciate any comments especially notification of errors and omissions.

It is humanly impossible to write an error free document. Your input will be deeply appreciated.

Please feel free to use this document or any parts as you like, or even to print it off or forward it to your friends. There is no copyright. Please remember to check all the thoughts with God's Holy Word, then if you are satisfied that the contents of this discussion line-up with God's thinking in His Word, walk in the Light, and share the truth with your friends..

*Please e-mail comments to: Kiwi Dove
 Kiwi.dove@gmail.com*

This discussion is basically a summary of a fuller discussion entitled: " The Bride and The Harlot, which one do you belong to? A discussion of the Church in history. Some criteria for determining affiliation " If you would like to have a copy of the document, I will forward it to you by e-mail , on request.

Some additional thoughts in this discussion you have just read have been included notably on the *Oikos (households)* , *the gathering together of Oikos as The Ekklesia*, and on *The Bride*.

END