

A One people. 1 Peter 2:9.

- ❖ People from every nation are part of the Church, but God considers the Church to be one people. A holy nation of holy men and women with one purpose: to proclaim God's love and salvation to the world.
- ❖ There's nothing we can do to be suitable to be part of this people. God chooses us today as He chose the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

B One building and one home. Ephesians 2:19-22.

- ❖ In this metaphor, Paul combines the idea of a building and its stones with the home within it.
- ❖ We are living stones that are part of a building. The cornerstone and the foundation is Christ (1 Peter 2:4-5).
- ❖ We are also part of a great family, but not by blood ties: God is our father.
- ❖ We are united because we've experienced the new birth, and we share one doctrine and one mission: to preach the Gospel.

C One temple. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

- ❖ The community of united believers is a temple. And God lives among them.
- ❖ The temple is at risk of collapse when division invades the Church (v. 17).

D One body. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

- ❖ Every member is a part of the body and has a specific purpose. All members must work together in their diversity. The body cannot work if its members don't coordinate.
- ❖ The Church is the body of Christ. He is the head and we are the members. As a result of this:
 - Our ethnic, racial, cultural, educational, and age differences must not be permitted to divide us in Christ.
 - At the foot of the cross we are all equal.
 - The gospel has a healing and reconciling power.
 - As each believer is spiritually connected to Christ, the entire body is therefore nourished with the same food.

E One shepherd and one flock. John 10:1-11.

- ❖ The Church is a flock. We are ingenious and fearful sheep that are guided by Jesus.
- ❖ When the sheep get lost (sin), Jesus looks for them and brings them back to the pen. He constantly takes care of us (both as individuals and as the Church).
- ❖ The important point is that sheep know the voice of their shepherd. Those who know the voice of Jesus will never wander alone. They will walk united to the rest of the flock.
- ❖ In fact, the unity and safety of the people of God depend on their proximity to Him and are directly related to their submissive obedience to His voice.