Our Dependence on Christ
The New Testament gives several pictures of Christ that help us better understand the relationship we (as believers) have with Him. These concepts include:

➢ The Shepherd of the sheep (John 10). Jesus cares for us, as a shepherd cares for his sheep:
  • He **protects** the sheep (vv. 11-13).
  • He **knows** His sheep and His sheep know Him (v. 14).
  • He willingly gave His **life** for the sheep (vv. 15-18).
  • His sheep hear His **voice** and **follow** Him (v. 27).
  • He gives to His sheep **eternal life** (v. 28).

➢ The Bridegroom and His bride (John 3:28-29). Christ is seen as a Bridegroom with the Church being His bride:
  • It is a relationship characterized by **love** and **submission** (Eph. 5:22-33).
  • A future wedding **banquet** will celebrate this relationship (Rev. 19:7-9).

➢ The Vine and the branches (John 15:1-8). Christ is pictured as a Vine in whom we are dependent:
  • The branches rely on the Vine as their source of **nourishment** and **life** (vv. 4, 6).
  • Branches connected to the Vine produce **fruit** (v. 5).

Our Response to Christ
A person’s response to Christ must begin with recognizing who He is and what He has accomplished on their behalf, and placing their absolute trust in Him as their only hope for salvation (Acts 2:22-24, 32-38). As a follower of Christ, note what John 15 says our daily response should be:

➢ We should **abide** in Him (v. 9; I John 2:28).
➢ We should keep His **commandments** (v. 10; I John 2:3).
➢ We should **love others** (v. 12; Mark 12:30-31).
➢ We should **bear fruit** (v. 16; James 2:17).

Our response to Christ is a demonstration of the love we have for Him and an appreciation for what He has done for us. This reveals what Christ truly means to us (Rom. 12:1).
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Christian Doctrine  
Jesus Christ (Part 8)  
Our Dependence and Response to Christ

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