

Christian Doctrine Jesus Christ (Part 8)

Our Dependence and Response to Christ

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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