

# The Church - Bride, Body, Building

by G.W. North

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*The Church is the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, and the building of God, with each member playing a unique role in the Church's unity and worship.*

**Duration:** 46:55

**Scripture:** John 14:2, Revelation 22:1

**Topics:** "Church"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of putting God at the center of our lives. He describes a vision of a throne and a river of living water flowing from it. The preacher urges the congregation to forsake everything for their love of God and warns against putting any other love or person before Him. He also discusses the concept of the church as the bride of Christ and highlights the significance of reading the Bible to gain a deeper understanding of spiritual truths.

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## Transcript

One thing was broken, hallelujah, but it was laid in the tomb. God came, and he pushed all the bones back in like that. What God wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, beloved? What God wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead? All things were put back as one, properly.

Every joint in place, you know. That's why it says in the Ephesians 1, Compacted by that which every joint supplied. I tell you, there's blessed simplicity and honesty, and simply grounds of the Bible.

Everything is perfect. Hallelujah. Click, click, click, click, click.

Heal. Listen. And you know that great word, don't you? In Isaiah 53, which says, By his stripes, we are healed.

The Hebrew word for stripes, there is scars. That's a wound healed. A scar, amen.

By his healing, that's right, we're healed, the scar, yeah, yeah, yeah, isn't that lovely, now isn't God just logical, it's just perfect you see, you haven't got to strain anything now, it's just, it's obvious, you can see it, as though it's writing on the wall, and truly it is writing on the wall for false theories.

What God wrought in Christ when he raised him, all the dismembered, disjointed, out of this, broken there, lacerated, oh, the mess, everything was pushed into place, glory, I was in a mess, I was disjointed, I

wasn't integrated, I couldn't make my inner man act according to my mind, I didn't know what to do, I didn't know how to do anything, you see, so cheer up, here's news for you, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, everything was put into it's correct relationship and order, isn't that lovely, yeah, now we're members of this body, the body, amen, he's the head of the body, the church which is his body, do you know and feel that you are part of the church which is him, perhaps you expected me to say his body, well that's him isn't it, the church which is him, oh, hallelujah, you

are, you are part of it, you feel part of it now, you feel his life scrubbing through you, I don't say look for thrills like feeling hot and cold or your hair standing up or something like that, there are the feelings of the inward man, these are the things I'm talking about, the feelings of the spirit, hey, this moves in the realm of power, power, glory, this is what God wants to understand, gave him the head over all, he is the head over all, a gift to the church, which is his body, will you accept him, a gift to the church, now you would rather have it, the church was given to him, but that's not what the bible says, very few people read the bible, they read what they think it means, gave him to the church, as though God already had the church, yeah, yeah, that's right, listen, listen

to Jesus, understand the truth, when he prayed the prayer of his life, on the way to the gardens, thine they were father, and thou gavest them thee, and I have kept, and none is lost, save the son of the devil, that the scriptures may be fulfilled, and now father, come I to thee, keep through thine own name, those that thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we, hallelujah, that's it, gave him to the church, think of it, be astounded, be amazed, so God had you as his priceless treasure, and sought something worthy of you, you such a Jesus, you're not only my elder brother Jesus, you're my head, and headship in the eastern family, next to the father, is vested in the elder brother, some of you men, of whatever age you are, whether you're a man, or you're a would be man, you could live

in an eastern family, and never take a decision in your life, either your father does it for you, or your elder brother, you women are too, a man can live and die, and never take a major decision in his life, it's all done by either the father, or when the father dies, the elder brother does it all, hallelujah, the whole family, the whole family, he's the head, lovely Lord, the government's on his shoulder, that's right, everything's right, beloved, the fullness of him, glory, Jesus as the head, if you may think of him now as one distinct personality, one lonely person, in the expanse of time, was without his fullness until he got his body, think of that, the fullness, Jesus just waited for us, beloved, he was incomplete without us, if you can just think of it now, in human terms, we know

that in God, of course, he was always complete, and we are complete in him, but the body completes the head, doesn't it, just as the head completes the body, isn't that right?

Yeah, that's right, and here, beloved, oh dear, we're not half way through, shall I go on?

I won't even look at it, this is the distinction between the old covenant and the new, the old covenant finished up with a headless body, John Baptist, he was beheaded, and they took his body away and buried it, his body, but the head was preserved in malice and hatred and mockery, on a silver platter, to fulfill the whims of a dancing girl and her mother, a headless body closed the old testament, but in the new testament, the head and the body are together, the head isn't alive and the body is dead, the head isn't preserved on a golden throne, and we're rotting in the grave, we've been raised up together with him, beloved, one body, one life, one Jesus, one home, one church, one, one, one, we're his fullness, filling all in all, then you can't be dissatisfied, then you're not filled as

you are, can't be frustrated, then you're not filled, you see, I've been brought up and I'm teaching that speaks about areas of my life that aren't this standard, God deliver you from it, this is the psychological jargon that's being pushed over into church teaching today, we're raised up together, believe in the immensity, believe in the glory of it, believe, believe, believe according to this, not according to people who say this, that or the other, believe according to the resurrection, the immeasurableness of it, from right down there to right up there, right up there, right up there, only direct, not dimension, there's no measurement, it can't be spanned, let your heart go, let your spirit go, for faith and spirit must be identified, faith is not a mental notion, it is not an

emotional experience, faith is spirit acting, one and the same, that's why you're told you live by faith, amen, now the Lord opens up tremendous truth to us, we're Him, we're not just His brothers, we're part of Him, this is tremendous, let's go to chapter 2 now shall we, and in chapter 2, oh this is glorious, let's read this shall we, we're told in verse 18, through Him we both, that is Jew and Gentile, have access by one spirit unto the Father, now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, now I want you to notice the conjoining of three great truths here, the city, the household and the temple, they're all the same, Father's house of many mansions is the city, which is New Jerusalem, which is also the temple,

city of the new creation, alright, this was foreshadowed in the Old Testament, they had a skin building, that's it animal skins called a tabernacle, that moved into a permanent building made of stones, which of course speaks of the living stones, it's funny how skin can turn to stones isn't it, that's it, this is the divine alchemy if we may say so, the way he does it, he envisaged, he foreshadowed it in the Old Testament, now then, we're built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone in whom, it's a marvellous thing, in the chief cornerstone, it's wonderful how he does it, I don't know how God does this, but it's true, all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord, in whom ye also are builded

together for an habitation of God through the Spirit, so we've got brotherhood, body, building, amen, the building, now isn't this a tremendous thing, we're born into the family, and we think we're individuals, and then, that has to do with the household idea you see, then we're baptised into the body, praise God, and then we know that we belong, we just belong, we're members, that's wonderful, and now we're building, and this time we're building together, building together, isn't that a tremendous thing, have you ever been to a building site, have you, all over the country you see them, you walk somewhere you see a great heap of sand, and somewhere you see a great heap of bricks, great heap of this, and then that's all going to be built together, it looks a hodgepodge of stuff, you say

well how in the world are they going to do anything with this, but they do, it all gets built together by the experts, amen, and now beloved this is what God is telling us, we've got to be built together, so don't you start getting funny ideas of going out on a desert island somewhere, we've got to be built together, so, oh I can get built up on my own, can you, you've got to be built together, God loves this idea of togetherness, oh he hates this idea of being peculiar, build it together, for an habitation of God, whose spirit, God's going to live in me, God's going to live in me, now when I'm in the family, I've got life, when I'm in the body, that is for function, functional member of the body, when I'm in the temple, that's for worship, glory that's for worship, amen, habitation, does

God live in you, does everything in you beloved, does it sort of turn into God, can you look through your whole self and see God, is he the master of your appetites, is he the lord of your desires, is he the saviour

of your mind, is he the prince of power in your will, do you worship God, a habitation of God, by a spirit, God lives in me, wouldn't you like to be able to say as Jesus did, now remember, you bear the name of Jesus, I, that's what he prayed, that they may be one, as we, as thou art in him and I in thee, that they may be one, just like that, this isn't a sort of an adapted idea of one, this is identical, this is what he prayed for, just like that, I am thy father of one, oh glory be to God, Henry, now, this is the thrill beloved, are you giving yourself to this, are you, or

are you more concerned with new choruses or something, what are you really concerned with, are you giving yourself, God living in me, God's permanent residence, his habitation, glory, and if God's going to be in you beloved, he's got to live in you, and when he lives in you, that's the life of God, this is it, he's reached it, he's reached his objective, and this is what it said in the apostolic doctrine we looked at this morning, one God and father of all, who is above all, through you and in you all, this is what Paul prayed, you see, that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened, a spirit of revelation of wisdom given to you, that you may be able to acknowledge him, know the father, very few people know the father, you'll hear it in meetings, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Lord, Lord, I

love, I listen till I hear someone say, Father, the crowds outside say, Lord, Lord, that I might receive my sight, Jesus, thou son of the, you see, yeah, that's what the devils cry out, Jesus, thou son of the most high God, but who says father, now don't think to promote your image in my eyes, if you come and whisper father near me, I could do it, I like to do it when you're unconscious, I know what I'm listening for, I know what I'm looking for, then they talk about the gift of discernment, so, yeah, there's a diagnostic position, hallelujah, father, the habitation of God, God, God might see you joy, God, hallelujah, amen, I tell you, beloved, you're talking the language of your head now, he says, father, amen, and the spirit in your heart cries, father, the habitation of God by the

spirit, praise him when he lives there, in a loving, adoring, appreciating heart, in an understanding and an enlightened mind, in the spirit of wisdom and revelation, you want to start counting up the seven spirits that are before the throne, hunting for them, go on it, get your bibles and move, so the Lord gives us to understand these great things, it's the place of worship, this holy temple in the Lord, to live together, hallelujah, this will make you want togetherness, it may not be under a sort of official name called come together, it may not be under that, but there is a togetherness, and that is not a church, though it calls itself a church, it isn't here, it's still building, amen, there's one thing is certain, there may be divisions among you, Paul wrote to his acquaintance, but

there aren't any divisions in the church, there aren't any, not the church, which is his body, not the church, which is his building, there's one thing that's certain, if the church and Jesus Christ be one, he's not a schizophrenic, hallelujah, do you believe that?

Oh, give yourself over to this, beloved, let it carry you away, let it fill your being, let it do things in your thinking, let it provoke love in you, yield to it, it's better than wine, now then, you see that this building is a preparation for the new creation, it is a city, it is the household, it is the temple, now you must look in Revelation 21 and 22 for this, I can't go at that now, I'm only doing this to let you see that all these are one, because there are some people who've got an idea that the bride is an elect company out of the elect, but they're one, and I used to hear somebody say, in my early days, I've had to fight through all these sort of theories, just the same as you do, it's good for you, you won't always be in your twenties, hallelujah, you'll come through them, it's

worth still in your teens, but you'll come through it alright, don't give in, don't give up, don't get turned aside, I met them all when I was your age, I'm speaking to the young people, I wouldn't like to be as old as everybody in the room, but the whole point is that God wants us to see this great truth and move into it beloved, I met this thing that there was a group called the overcomers, and if they were the overcomers, then they belonged to the bride, they were the out resurrection from the dead, according to Philippians 3, have you met this one, if you've been spared this world, praise God, and oh, it was all so wonderful, and my wife and I got our teeth into this at one time and then we took them out, we decided, well I did, she can eat tougher meat than I can, I've got a very

delicate digestive system, it's wonderful, and we went all through this and somebody used to say, you see, of course it's different, how can, if you belong to the body, and how can you belong to the bride, a man can't marry his own body, and we thought, yeah, that's right, no, no, that sounds right, that sounds right doesn't it, a man can't marry his own body, he has to marry somebody else's doesn't he, well that's right, so we thought, yeah, see you've got to be careful of these sort of specious things, they don't half sound right to your mind, they sound good and the way you go, and I did, I got right on this, I got so far and then I saw through it all, and all you need to do is to keep reading your Bible, you just keep reading your Bible, this is what I did, you see, and so, I saw this

and see it to this day, that the city and father's house of many mansions that Jesus spoke about, and the temple are the same as the body and the bride, they are different aspects of the same truth, Hallelujah, and so we come to the fifth chapter, and I see that some of you must be getting very weary, did I ever tell you the story that once I went to a conference, I'm always in them, I live my life in them, so if you're thinking of coming to Cliff this year, perhaps you'll change your mind, I finished at Cliff this last year, and I suppose I must have spoken six solid hours out of every day, in three sessions, besides singing and yelling when God delivered people and all sorts of things, and talking to people in between, and by the time I'd finished, I was sore from here, right round

that, an area like that, I was really sore, yeah, so somebody was driving me home in the car, and I sat in the car beside the driver, and behind sat the wife and the two sons of the family, and I'm talking to the husband, you see, he's driving, and I said, ooh, I'm all sore, ooh, I'm raw, all round here, a voice from the back seat said, yes, I'm all sore, I'm raw too, I said, but you haven't been doing any speaking, ah, he said, I'm sore here, that's one against me, isn't it, so if you're feeling like that, cheer up, there have been others before you, Well, anyway, we're on the last great theme, and it's a very blessed one, beloved, and he's talking about the church, in the fifth chapter, and what a precious revelation it is, he's talking about the bride, this is a great mystery, he says

in verse 32, I speak concerning Christ and the church, listen to verse 30, we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his blood, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they too shall be one flesh, it's a great mystery, but you see, the whole secret is this, beloved, that when God made a man, the first Adam, he made him of dust, he breathed into him the breath of life, he became a living soul, as I pointed out, he hadn't got a soul, he was a soul, you haven't got a soul, you are a soul, man became a living soul, that's what he became, praise God, your spirit, if it becomes conscious, may be able to say, why art thou cast down within me, O my soul, because your spirit now is alive, and it recognises the position, but you are a

soul, praise God, and this is so gloriously true, well, then he said, it's not good for man to be alone, when he made Adam, so he put Adam to sleep, and he opens up his side, and he takes out a rib, and of the rib,

he builds a woman, that's your actual word, talk about build it, which is the word edification, that's used in scripture, built up, he built a woman from that bone, bone of my bone, flesh of his flesh, alright, he built a woman, and he built Eve from that bone, and they were together as man and wife, and actually, Adam married his own body, he married his own flesh, now that's forbidden in the earthly, see, so when people come out with these ideas, it's simply because they are thinking earthly things, it's carnal.

But they are filled with the spirit, are they? Who said so?

It's a maintained fullness, it isn't you relying on I was filled yesterday, or baptised in the spirit last year, that's why he's careful to say in the fifth chapter, before he opens this mystery, be being filled with the spirit all the time, that's the Greek, you'll never get this if you don't, now you are baptised in the spirit, no, no, he says, you be filled with the spirit now, come on, be filled with the spirit now, be filled with the spirit now, I'm going to launch a big mystery onto you, may I stagger your mind, you'll never understand it, Jesus Christ actually marries his own flesh, with a bone of his body, flesh of his body, in other words, all these pictures of oneness, they are all established from God, we can talk about a building with an inhabitant, a body with a head, a

family, and a home, you can think of a bride and a husband too, they are all one, they are all one, blessed be the name of the Lord, as old John says, I John, I saw the bride, new Jerusalem, that's the city, coming down from heaven, the bride adorned by God, that's the temple city of the new creation, in which all the worship, the central worship of the new earth, the new heaven, is going to be conducted, under Melchizedek, our husband, our elder brother, our head, our chief chorus there, it's all going to be conducted under his glory, in resurrection life and glory, and we are going to be married to him, Amen, can you imagine it, go on let your imagination go, get it right off male, female, that's got nothing to do with it, that's all part of a dead and finished creation, served it's

purpose, Hallelujah, but spiritually, married to my Lord, forever and ever and ever, love, this is of course isn't it, this is union, this is the union, you can call it romance if you like, this is it, now you've got to go on that, flesh of his flesh, bone of his bone, married to him, is there any other relationship you'd like to take up with regard to him, here then is his church, and in that day, the church is the great jewel of the new creation, she is the great golden bride, she is the wonderfully adorned one, she is the one of simplicity, openness, glory, clarity, purity, read all the adjectives used about her in Revelation 21, the Lord is scribe, right at the centre is the throne, the Lord God Almighty and his Lamb, down her golden throat runs the river, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

Lord so precious, Amen, and out of her belly if I may say, is flowing the river of living water, and either side of the river is there the tree of life, which bears twelve manners of fruit, amens, leaves are for the healing of the nation, oh it's all so marvellous, everybody has a clear view of the throne, everybody has a clear view, oh it's so so marvellous, and there he is in the bosom of his father, praise God, the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb, Father, Son, the Bride and the Spirit, they are all aware, and that's what it's going to be beloved, and if you don't forsake everything for this beloved, you will not get there, and if you put any other love or any other person in front of him, you will not get there, Amen, and if you start defiling yourself, you better get clean quick, or

you shall never be in it, that's what the book says, Amen, praise God, Lord keep us there, spotless, undefiled, this inheritance, I don't want it to fade away from me, I want it to be there in my heart, oh at times let your mind range over this, let your heart go out to your husband, love him, love him into your

heart, love him into your being, know that your bone is the flesh of his flesh, eat his flesh, drink his blood, be of his substance, know you come forth from his bone, for the word of God divides between joints and marrow of the bones, where the life seed comes from, you got to be there, in the womb of God, got to come forth, a family, got to belong to the body, got to belong to the temple, here is Jesus' heart made bare, here it is opened up to you, Paul said, this revelation

wasn't long, oh the bride was pretty good, Israel was called God's wife, he said I was a husband to her, I took her by the hand to lead her out of Egypt, and she broke my covenant, she was unfaithful, therefore I overthrew them in the wilderness, and away it goes, if you break the covenant, this bridal glorious covenant, you will feel all overthrown, in the wilderness, you will, you can't move from it, I want to tell you that all spiritual, psychological, mental, neural, emotional things, of true personality and nature, are pictured in the Old Testament, and emblazoned across its pages, if you want an analysis of human personality, don't turn to Freud or Jung, turn to your Bible, you'll know more than your teachers, that's what David said, by thy word I know more than my teachers, that's

what David said, do you believe that?

Get down to it, get down to it, God wants us to enter in, have you really entered in? Now how far have you entered? How far have you gone? Have you gone right in? Listen, I think we may have to defer the bread and wine to tomorrow, I warned this morning, it doesn't matter, we can have it if we want, we feel this is right, we're not worshipping everyone, Are you a brother to Jesus? Would you love to own him as your brother? My, I was a brother, glory to God, shall I say, if I may use it rightly, to be proud of him, he makes all my decisions for me, don't you know that all the decisive powers of the human personality, are in the brain, and that's in the head, He makes all my decisions for me, he tells me what he wants, I'm part of his body, he just thinks and wills and I move, praise God, isn't that right?

Be careful there, because he'll move you out of a lot of things you're in, perhaps, or move you into a lot of things you're out of, and they're functional and marvellous, and are you, beloved, in this place of just worship and adoration? Who are you? Build it together, and are you totally in love with Jesus? Listen, a man left his father, left his home, and left his mother, for you, his name was Jesus, he left heaven, he left father in that sense, his father was always with him, spiritually, and he left mother Mary, and he said, woman, what have I to do with thee?

And he sought thee, to a cross, now you've got to lead your father, and mother, and everything, unless you're not worthy of him, you've got to lead it all, Doesn't matter who he is, leave him, leave him, doesn't matter who she is, leave her, now, forsake her, on the spot, you've got to get here, to spiritual reality, Mary, come on, let's have a time with the Lord, Mary.

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