THE CHURCH WE HONOR EPHESIANS 4:1-6 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-21 Dearborn Valley Sunday 5-15-66 INTRODUCTION: More than ever we need a true conception of the church. Our conception of the church usually is based upon: 1. What we think about the people we know belong to the church. What they are, what they do. So: 1. Some have a high conception of the church. 2. Still others have a very low conception of the church 2. WE VIEW SOME NEW TESTAMENT PICTURES OF THE CHURCH 1. WE VIEW THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AS A BODY. 1. This would suggest unity. The human body used to teach us concerning the working principle of the church. 1 Cor. 12:12-21 2. Body must be in subjection, well trained for the best work, if we expect to win. 1 Cor. 9:24-27 3. Christ is the saviour of the body. Eph. 5:23 (1) The importance of being in the body. 2. WE VIEW THE CHURCH AS A BUILDING. This suggests stability. 1. Jesus said, "I will build my church." Matt. 16:18 2. Jesus the Architect and Builder: this gives aidig nity to the building that cannot be found in man's doings.

3. Regarding the stability of the building:

(1) Jesus said, "Upon this rock, I will build my church." Matt.16:18

(2) Paul described, "Jesus Christ himself being (Eph. 2:19-22) the chief corner stone...in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.

(3) Peter said, "Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house'2:5

4. The attacks of men, persecution, "the gates of hell" cannot shake her foundation because: She is built upon the rock of the deity of Christ.

3. WE SEE THE CHURCH AS A BRIDE: This suggests purity. 1. The Bridegroom sees a beauty in his bride which and line is not seen by the world. Eph. 5:27. 2. Without spot, wrinkle, blemish .. . Eternally young

and beautiful.

3. Peter speaks of the bride as "chosen." 1 Pet.2:9
4. We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
unto good works, which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10

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