

# THE BRIDE OF THE LAMB

## Understanding God's Blueprint for the Church

The Bride of the Lamb:

This study we will be examining the body of Christ - The Church - Christ's Bride in Waiting! The word that is designated "Church" in the New Testament means "called out ones". The people of God are His possession, called out of the darkness to be His Light in a dying world. An examination of God's Blueprint for His church is vital to its effectiveness. It is also crucial for us to do when we are faced with so many significant changes. Spend some time preparing for each study and tackle the closing activity with zeal and you may find that the Holy Spirit will develop a vision for His Bride in your heart and mind.

# Study #1 - Why the Church?

- Describe how the Church is often viewed by the media, non-Christians, liberal Christianity, other religions or groups?
  
- Why is it significant that Christ is the builder of the Church? (Matthew 16:18)
  
- Why does Paul characterize the Church as a mystery (something hidden or secret)? (see Ephesians 3:1-11)
  
- After reading through the inauguration of the Church in Acts 2, why do you think there was such a "hoopla" accompanying the birth of the Church (violent wind, tongues of fire, speaking in native languages, powerful preaching) ?
  
- What do the different terms referring to the Church emphasize about the nature of the Church?
  - ▶ Body -Ephesians 1 , Corinthians 12: 12ff
  - ▶ Building -Ephesians 2:19-22
  - ▶ Bride -2 Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 19:7
  
- Using the following texts, what is the purpose of the Church? (why does it exist?)
  - ▶ Ephesians 1:4-6
  - ▶ Ephesians 2: 19-22
  - ▶ Ephesians 3:7-10
  - ▶ I Thessalonians 5: 11, Ephesians 4:11-16, James 5:16
  
- How do we as a local Church fulfill each of those purposes?
  
- Where are we weak individually and corporately?

- As a group, write develop a mission statement for our Church based on what you have studied.

## Study #2 - Body Health

- Students in a Junior High school have a strong desire to belong to a group? Why do we as humans have that need for belonging and acceptance?
- What is the difference between the universal Church (Ephesians 1 22&23) and the local church (Romans 16:5)?
- How does a person become a member of the universal Church?
- Membership to a local church is often overblown or discredited altogether. Looking at the issue in the larger sense, who are those who are "*members*" of a local church?
- To what extent was the Church intended to be localized (e.g. people from a certain subdivision or area of town) go to the nearest church meeting)?  
What are the benefits of that kind of a system?

Are there any drawbacks?

- It has often been said that the Church does not resemble an organization, but an organism. It is living, growing and dynamic. What things indicate whether a local church is a healthy organism? (Acts 2:41&47, Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Peter 2:4-10)
- A healthy church implies that it is not unhealthy -stagnate -sick. What signs

characterize a church that is not healthy?

- ❑ To what extent does the health of an individual member affect the health of the whole local church? (I Corinthians 12:26&27)? How much are we responsible individually for the health of the local body collectively?
  
- ❑ Review the following summarized list of health indicators and discuss which points are valid, important and easiest to overlook. Discuss our local assembly's strengths and weaknesses as it relates to this group. Can you add your own?

### **SICK CHURCH INDICATORS**

*by Leith Anderson & Hollis Green*

- ▶ Members are unaware that the organism is dying.
- ▶ Legalism and hypocrisy
- ▶ Little commitment to personal evangelism
- ▶ Decreasing or stagnated growth in numbers
- ▶ Resistance to change
- ▶ Members are not aware of their gifts or using them
- ▶ God's glorification isn't evident
- ▶ People aren't being disciplined
- ▶ Newcomers aren't incorporated with any success
- ▶ Feeling of superiority over other brands of churches
- ▶ Preaching and teaching is sporadic and shallow
- ▶ Individuals aren't committed to holy living
- ▶ Church discipline is non-existent
- ▶ Global perspective is missing
- ▶ Program becomes more important than people

- ▶ Confession of sin, compassion and encouraging are rare
- ▶ Infighting and division
- ▶ Mediocrity in many endeavors
- ▶ Worship is lifeless
- ▶ Priesthood of believers is neglected
- ▶ Prayer isn't a vital part of the life of the church

## Study #3 - Body Exercises

- Why are photographs such a source of joy and memory years after they are taken?
- God has given us two "photos" in the life of the church - baptism and the Lord's Supper. In general terms, what do they bring to our minds?
- Baptism, as a picture, conveys truth on a number of levels. Read Romans 6:1-14 and identify what baptism is saying in each of the following areas:

Literal  
Christ's Death

Baptized (dunked)

Under the Water

Out of the water

Us at salvation

Us daily

- Romans 6 develops such a strong tie between the act of baptism and living a godly life. What is the relationship?
- What does Paul mean when he says we were "baptized into Christ?" (Galatians 3:27)

- ❑ Besides commanding baptism (Matthew 28:19), Christ also asked believers to exercise themselves through the remembrance feast, (Matthew 26: 26-27). Looking at the common names for this service, how is it often viewed by various Christian groups?
- ❑ The Lord Jesus Christ's command was to "*remember me.*" Why is that so crucial? What is the purpose of this "body exercise?"
- ❑ What is to be pictured in each of the two symbols (1 Corinthians 11
  - ▶ "*This is my body which is for you*"
  - ▶ "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood*"
- ❑ Why is self-examination such an important part of the feast? (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)
- ❑ Is there any prescribed methodology or frequency pattern given to the feast? (see Acts 2:46 & 20:7, Jude 12, 1 Corinthians 11:17-22)
- ❑ Christ's also commanded that believers were to make disciples of all nations. Why is evangelism and discipleship so important in the exercise of the Church?

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER VIEWED HISTORICALLY**

Read the following passage from *Christianity Through the Centuries* by Earle Cairns and verbalize, from scripture, which view is correct and why.

*This council, known as the Fourth Lateran Council, made an annual confession to a priest by all the laymen mandatory and declared that all must be at the Mass at least at Easter. The declaration of the dogma of transubstantiation was more important. It was the teaching that the substance of the bread and wine became the actual body and blood of Christ after the words of consecration by the priest. The outward form of the elements still appeared to the senses as bread and wine, but a metaphysical change had taken place to the substances so that the bread and wine became respectively the body and blood of Christ. Thus, the priest performed a sacrifice each time he held a Mass. Small wonder that medieval men feared the clergy, who had power to give or withhold life-giving sacraments. (pp. 216-217)*

*Luther and Zwingli met in the fall of 1529 .... they agreed on 14 out of 15 propositions, but disagreed on how Christ was present in the elements. Zwingli contended that Communion was a memorial of Christ's death, but Luther argued that there was a real physical presence of Christ in the Communion although the substance of the bread and wine did not change. (pp. 294-295)*

## Study #4 - Leading the Flock

- What qualities contribute to strong leadership in the secular world? What kind of person do people like to follow?
  
- In Titus 1, Paul admonishes Titus to "*appoint elders in every town.*" Why does the local church need leadership?
  
- One qualification for leadership is willingness (see 1 Timothy 3:1 & 1 Peter 5:3). Why is that so important? Why is it such a noble task?
  
- There are two words for elder used in the New Testament. Episkopos - or "bishop" means "an overseer." Presbuteros is usually translated to mean "elder." What is the task of the elder / overseer ? (1 Peter 5:2&3, 1 Timothy 3:2&5, Titus 1:9; James 5: 14-15; 1 Timothy 5:17)
  
- The Greek word for deacon is diakonos, which means servant. The deacon's task is a little more nebulous, but can be seen in Acts 6:1-6. Describe it.
  
- Read the list of qualifications for Church leadership in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1:5-9. Is this an impossible list?
  
- In a world where leadership is based on performance and charisma, what is different about the qualifications for church leadership? (1 Timothy 3) Does a strong leader in business or academic circles guarantee strength in church leadership?
  
- Both deacons and elders positions are qualified by maintaining strong family relationships. Why is that a requirement?
  
- What is the danger of rushing new believers into leadership? (1 Timothy 3:6)
  
- What is the local churches' obligation toward it's leadership? (Hebrews 13:17, 1 Timothy 5:17-19, Colossians 4:3&4)

- ❑ Why is it important that the leader's wife meets certain qualifications also? (see 1 Timothy 3:11)
  
- ❑ Why is hospitality an important qualification for the elder and his family? (see Titus 1:8)

### **Christian Psychologist - or - Church Elder**

Discuss the following interview segment in light of the role of elders.

Interviewer: What has been the effect of professional counseling in the church?

*Dr. Larry Crabb: The church has bought into the idea that its spiritual role is a very limited one. If a woman struggles with depression or lacks sexual desire for her husband because of past sexual abuse, the immediate response is to send the woman to a professional counselor. The underlying assumption is that spiritual resources aren't sufficient to deal with what's going on -that only people with levels of massive levels of professional training can help. Ultimately, we're saying the Scriptures and Christianity don't meaningfully address the core of our lives.. ... If, in fact, all non-organic psychological problems (ones with a physiological base) are spiritual problems, they belong more to the role of an elder than to the expert.*

Interviewer: What do you mean by elder?

*Dr. Larry Crabb: I'm not referring to the official church position as such, but to godly people. To whatever degree you or I have pursued the Lord with our heart and soul and mind and strength, we have something to offer to those around us, either in a discipleship or friendship capacity. The church needs to take the role of spiritual, godly men and women far more seriously. They have a lot more power to deeply affect the souls of other people than they are generally given credit for. A key passage is Ephesians 4:16, which says the whole body grows when each part does its work. We're "joined and held together" by God - there's an inner connection. So when I meaningfully relate to another person, deep things happen inside him or her. That's what we've taken out of Christian community and put into a therapist's office.*

Taken from Christianity Today, August 14, 1995, pp. 16-17



## Study #5 - Body Parts

- Describe to the group a time when a very minor part of your body severely limited your ability to function properly. Be creative in relaying your story!
  
- Read Romans 12:3-8. How do we inflate how we view ourselves? (Romans 12:3)
  
- Is it more common to belittle our talents and gifts? What is wrong with that?
  
- What is the difference between natural abilities and gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
  
- Is it not unfair that we have different abilities and gifts? (see Romans 12:4-6 & 1 Corinthians 12: 14-27)
  
- What is the purpose of God giving gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:12-16)
  
- The implication behind God giving gifts is that we are to determine what they are and then use them. (see Matthew 25: 14-30) How can we learn what our specific gifts are? How can the Church help in that role?
  
- What is even more important than our giftedness? (1 Corinthians 12:31ff)
  
- Should we be highly involved in areas where we are not specifically gifted? Conversely, should we be uninvolved in areas we are gifted?
  
- What are the consequences for us not using the gifts God has given us? (see Matthew 25 and 2 Corinthians 5:10)

- ❑ What does Romans 12:6-8 say about our attitudes when we are using our gifts? (see also, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)
- ❑ The differing gifts of individuals in the church emphasize the diversity of the Body of Christ. Reading through 1 Corinthians 12, how is that diversity brought together "unified"?

**Your activity for this week is a little different and will require grace, love and openness. If you are willing, spend a few minutes thinking about your own personal gifts. Then, beginning with the Bible study (leading by example, of course) share your gift with the group. After each person shares, have the group comment on that person's "sober judgement." Confirm them or suggest another area of giftedness. End by praying that God continue to reveal His gifts to your group and pray for each other as they seek to use those gifts.**

## Study #6 - Is the Church its Own Boss?

- ❑ How do different churches usually relate to each other? How about cross-denominationally?
- ❑ Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 once again this week. This time, however, back up and take a look at it from a larger perspective. Try to see the whole body of Christ with its individual members being local churches. According to verse 13, what characterizes all "*true members*" of the church, regardless of background?
- ❑ Verse 12 says that the Church of God is one unit, but has many parts. Discuss the diversity of different churches (not just assemblies) and their practises. The only rule is that you can only discuss positive characteristics of your brothers and sisters throughout the world. Isn't the body of Christ wonderfully diverse?
- ❑ Do people choose different "*denominations*" only on the basis of doctrine, or are there other factors that influence the "flavour" they choose?

- ❑ The rest of the passage in 1 Corinthians 12 explains the interdependence of different parts of the body. Why do we need other churches, Pentecostals, Baptists, etc. ? If a scandal rocks believers in another assembly, how does that affect us?
- ❑ What should be our attitude in relation to other churches (instead of criticism, gossip, pride or segregation)? (see Philippians 1:15-18, Colossians 4:2, Ephesians 1:15&16)
- ❑ How is the local church autonomous? ( Romans 16:5, Philemon 2, Colossians 4:15, Acts 20:28)
- ❑ If a local church was based on geographic proximity, how does that explain the variety of church experiences?
- ❑ What benefits come when a church exercises its priesthood of individual believers and is not subject to hierarchical church structures?

### **BODY DIFFERENCES**

*Have each person in the group do some mini-research for about 5-10 minutes. Look at the following local churches and discover things that are unique and things that are in common. Don't limit yourself to the passages given, these are just a starting point. Share your insight later.*

**Acts 21:17-26**

**Romans 1 8&9, 16:1-19**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-16**

**Galatians 1:6-9**

**Ephesians 1:15 & 16**

**Philippians 1:3-8**

**Colossians 1:3-8**

**1 Thessalonians 1:2&3, 4:11&12**

# Study #7 - Disciplining the Body

- Describe an experience to your group when you were disciplined as a child. How do you view that experience now?
  
- How is church discipline often viewed in our society? How has that changed in recent years? What arguments might someone give against the church disciplining its members?
  
- Often people say that the church or another individual should not judge another believer or pass judgment on him/her. What would Paul say to that? (see 1 Corinthians 5:3, 12, Galatians 6:1 & 2, Matthew 18:15-17)
  
- According to Matthew, what is the process for confronting a person who sins or offends?
  
- What is the goal of confrontation?
  
- Why are witnesses to be included in the process?
  
- Matthew 18:17 and 1 Corinthians 5 indicate that some kind of expulsion or disassociation is required. Isn't that a little extreme? Isn't that ignoring our responsibility to love and forgive? Aren't we to restore rather than condemn?
  
- What situation precipitated Paul's demand for expulsion? What kinds of situations would it be necessary to consider church discipline? (*We all sin, don't we?*) See 1 Timothy 5: 19-20; Matthew 18: 15ff, 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11-15, Titus 1:10-16, Titus 3:8-11, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11)
  
- Why is the church to discipline its members? (2 Corinthians 2:6-8, 1 Corinthians 5:5-7)
  
- How is church discipline related to God's discipline in our lives? (Hebrews 12:5ff)

## **CHURCH DISCIPLE CASE STUDY**

*Read the following account and discuss how the situation should be handled. Joe and Melissa have been attending Grace Bible Church for nearly four years. Joe is an elder and Melissa is in charge of the ladies ministry committee and teaches Sunday school occasionally. They both have developed quite a reputation for being divisive, hostile and uncaring. Joe hears quite a bit of the dirt in people's lives because of his position. He has shared much of that with his wife as a way of coping. She, however, has used that confidential information to put others down, gossiping about them or using the information to arrange circumstances to her selfish advantage.*

*Joe has increasingly used his position as a leverage to accomplishing what he wants. He rarely compromises and has developed quite a group of people who follow his leadership and oppose the work of the other elders and deacons. Both Joe and Melissa feed off of each others' selfish ambition. They are harsh and critical of others who disagree with them. Most of the conflict does not arise out of doctrinal concern, but rather with small issues of power. Ed is a fellow elder and he and his wife are becoming increasingly concerned with what they are seeing in Joe and Melissa's lives. What should they do?*

## Study #8 - Church Accounting

- Why is the way the church handles money so integral? Think of recent situations where this has been a problem.
  
- Read through the following two chapter (2 Corinthians 8 &9). What characterized the approach to money in the lives of believers in Macedonia? Corinth?
  
- What must be the motivation for giving? (2 Corinthians 8:, 8:10, 9:5-7)
  
- What is our attitude toward giving to be? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

- How far are we to take Christ's admonition to give in secret? (Matthew 6:1-4) Does this mean we shouldn't give in a way where others know about it? (For example: Income tax receipts or passing an offering bag)
  
- Is Paul advocating a form of Christian communism? (2 Corinthians 8:13-15, Acts 2:44&45)
  
- When we give, who are we giving to? (2 Corinthians 8:5, 9:12-15)
  
- How does generous giving mirror God's giving in our lives? How is God glorified by our giving?
  
- Does 2 Corinthians 9:7, 10&11, promise financial prosperity to those who give generously?
  
- Are we to give ten percent, or is there a different New Testament requirement. (see previous passages in this study and Luke 21:1-4)
  
- Is it okay to appeal to fellow Christians for money?
  
- What is money given to the church to be used for?
  
- Why is it dangerous when we give money to an individual or church and expect that things will be arranged in our favor because of our generosity?

## **CHECK YOUR GIVING QUOTIENT**

*Rate yourself on a scale of one to ten on your giving attitude and habits.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am motivated to give because of the truth that Christ could come at any time and will require an accounting of how I have used my material possessions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I give to honor God, not to bring attention to myself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I give, free from dishonesty, lack of integrity and hypocrisy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I evaluate my motives for giving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My giving is motivated by concern for others and a desire to see God's purposes fulfilled in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My giving is based on internal motivation not simply from a sense of obligation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I give to the Lord's work out of gratitude for His great gift for me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My giving to others is free from expectations for acknowledgment or to accomplish my own purposes.

*Adapted from Real Prosperity by Gene A. Getz*

## Study #9 - Body Building

- Rank the following factors in maintaining the strength and vitality of the human body:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ diet
  - \_\_\_\_\_ exercise
  - \_\_\_\_\_ stress avoidance
  - \_\_\_\_\_ vitamin & mineral intake
  - \_\_\_\_\_ rest
  - \_\_\_\_\_ love
  
- Rank the following factors in maintaining the strength and vitality of Christ's Spiritual Body:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ prayer
  - \_\_\_\_\_ teaching
  - \_\_\_\_\_ worship & remembrance
  - \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship
  - \_\_\_\_\_ love
  
- Acts 2:42-47 is often quoted as the key passage dictating the ministry of the church -the things that she should be devoting her attention to. What indication do you find in the passage that the church in those early stages was strong and vital?
  
- Why is it significant that they devoted themselves to the ministry tasks listed?

- Why is teaching so important in the life of the church? How do we rate individually and corporately in our teaching ministry? Where can we improve?
  
- Why is prayer so important in the life of the church? How do we rate individually and corporately in our commitment to pray for individuals and our church? Where can we improve?
  
- Why is Breaking Bread so important in the life of the church? How significant is our "*Communion*" service in strengthening individuals and the body? Does the format and approach need to stay exactly the same as it has for years. What changes can we make?
  
- Why is fellowship so important in the life of the church? Do you feel encouraged and cared for by those you fellowship with? Do you have significant relationships with other Christians in your assembly who ask you hard questions and keep you accountable? How can we encourage deeper openness and fellowship?
  
- Read Ephesians 4:2-6. What does Paul mention that we need to do to encourage unity in the church?
  
- Why is unity so important? What is sacrificed when unity is destroyed?
  
- What is the end goal of a church that takes its ministry seriously? (Ephesians



## **REVIVAL!**

David Mains. writing for Moody Monthly, (January, 1992) suggested that North America is seeing signs that point to revival in the Church of God. Discuss what he says in the following excerpts as it relates to our ministry within the church.

*Revival could still abort if we fail to cooperate in what God is doing. But in six specific aspects of church life, I see evidence of the special preparation of the Holy Spirit.*

*The first encouraging trend is that a growing number of God's people have a deep hunger for worship. More than anything else, a waking is marked by an overwhelming sense of the presence of the Lord..... Revival and prayer always go together. The early church spent much time in prayer..... Almost all accounts of awakening include an amazing upheaval in the pulpit. The Word seems to come alive. Listeners sense that Christ is present, adding His authority to the preaching..... people delight in serving Him. I see this especially among women today. (Editor's comment: Promise Keeper's is now indicating revival of this sort among American men.)*

*..... Revival always stimulates evangelism. When the church is alive, Christians find that talking about their Lord is natural and easy ..... I'm also encouraged by what I see the Lord doing among our youth. Years ago, J. Edwin Orr told me that if revival came, it would probably appear first among young ..... I plead with you to join us in praying for the Lord's coming. Pray for His coming again in glory, yes, but also pray for his coming again in power to revive His Church.*

**REVIVE YOUR CHURCH LORD! REVIVE ME LORD!**

## Study #10 - Social Agency??

- How are the poor, needy and downtrodden helped in your city?
- Name as many needy groups as you can think of? (e.g. single mothers)
- Is the church to merely act as a social agency? George Bush as former president and even, Ralph Klein a former premier of Alberta, during the last round of economic cutbacks, appealed to churches to help care for those who are needy or suffering. Is that the role of the church? (James 1:27, 2:15&16, 1 John 3:17)

- ❑ How did the early church react to the need for food by Grecian widows? (Acts 6:1-7)
  
- ❑ Why is organized, deliberate effort more significant than a vague commitment?
  
- ❑ Why should the church help those who are helpless? (Matthew 25:31-45)
  
- ❑ Answer the following objections:
  - ▶ Won't incorporating the needy tarnish the image of our church?
  
  - ▶ We don't want *"their"* children to corrupt our children.
  
  - ▶ I don't feel safe in that area!
  
  - ▶ I don't feel gifted in reaching that group.
  
  - ▶ There are enough concerns in our church to keep us busy.
  
  - ▶ I don't live near the needy.
  
  - ▶ I don't know anyone who is destitute or broken.
  
- ❑ How did the early church deal with people who were needy? (Acts 2:43-45)
  
- ❑ Does the church have a greater responsibility for *"those who are its own,"* and are suffering great need?

**UNDEFILED RELIGION!**

Why has God placed your church where it is? Why does He continue to lead us to stay where we are? Why is He blessing our efforts to be involved in the community so beautifully?

What is one thing I can do to be more involved in reaching those in need?

# Study #11 - The Bride and Her Groom

- Describe an incident in which you really hoped for something to happen and it didn't? How did you feel? Have you learned to view your hopes and aspirations as childish fantasies that will never be realized?
  
- Why is hope so important?
  
- What is the Church's hope? (John 14:2-3, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, Revelation 19:6-9)
  
- Paul told Christians to encourage one another in the realization that He will come again. (1 Thessalonians 4:18) Does Christ's return encourage you? How can we renew that longing expectation of his soon return? Why have we lost it?
  
- How should the reality of Christ's coming change us?
  
- Why is it important that we don't know exactly when Christ will return?
  
- The Judgment Seat of Christ is something which is rarely talked about, but something which all believers must come before. (2 Corinthians 5: 10, Revelation 22:12). How can God judge us and still give us a home in heaven?
  
- On what basis are we going to be judged? (2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)
  
- What are the possible consequences of Christ's probing judgment? (1 Corinthians 3: 14ff)
  
- Is it possible to become a Christian and continue in disobedience and apathy in service? (1 Corinthians 3:15)

## **TRAGEDY OR TRIUMPH?**

Read the following segment from Joseph Dillow's book, REIGN OF THE SERVANT KINGS, and discuss how this should affect you individually and the church corporately.

We may say four things about the negative consequences which come upon the believer at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

First, God's love and acceptance of the sinning Christian is not affected in terms of the Christian's eternal relationship to God and permanent membership in His family. We are forever perfectly accepted in Christ and perfectly loved. However, God does not approve of our sins, and we can lose our fellowship in time and our share in the great future in the kingdom if we persist in them.

Second, the negative consequences for believers at the judgment seat of Christ may be viewed as the final chastisement which the Lord has ordained for His people. The fact that some of the punishments are experienced in eternity rather than in time enhances their value for sanctifying us now.... For many, the sobering reality of final accountability in this matter serves as a goad to perseverance and a barrier to backsliding.

Third, this view of the judgment seat should not lead to introspection ....How can we have any confidence to stand before Christ if we know that every work will be revealed and every deed evaluated? ..... While even persevering disciples will have regrets and loss at the Judgment Seat, their predominant sense will be of joy and gratitude.

God's motive in these future chastisements is merciful and loving. It is His desire that all His children enjoy the fullness of co-heirship with His Son in the final destiny of man. He knows more than anyone how grieved we will be to miss out on the reign of Christ's metochoi in the kingdom [Editor's note: The word metochoi means to be "in Christ" or be "part of Christ" or a partaker of Christ] ..... The Father's heart weeps with the full knowledge of what His child is about to undergo and forfeit.

Furthermore, we must remember that the duration of the chastisement is momentary and the subsequent remorse does not last into eternity. We are told that Christ will wipe away every tear. When we arrive in eternity future, everyone's cup will be full, but the cups be of different sizes.