

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN METAPHORS OF
THE CHURCH

I. WHAT WE HAVE REVEALED IN THE WORD OF GOD

A. We find that the church in God's program is likened or analogous to seven distinct figures or metaphors which are used to teach certain spiritual principles.

B. As we would define the meaning of a metaphor we will see it is using one idea or relationship in place of another to suggest some likeness to it. For an example, believers have a relationship to the Lord as sheep do to a shepherd.

II. WHAT THESE METAPHORS OF THE CHURCH MEAN TO US

A. Each of these metaphors is used to show some kind of spiritual relationship between believers and the Lord Jesus.

B. Each of these metaphors teaches some spiritual truths which are based upon this relationship.

C. Each of these metaphors will bring us closer to the Lord and benefit us personally in our worship and service for the Lord as we more fully understand them.