

## Lecture 15 – The Doctrine of the Church: The Nature of the Church

*And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

*Ephesians 1:22-23*

### Key Terms

People, body, temple

### Lecture Objectives

- To locate and explain the three major biblical metaphors for the church
- To trace the doctrine of the church through church history
- To recognize, discuss, and apply some of the implications of the biblical metaphors of the church for contemporary church life and ministry

### Preview

Having just completed our study of election, we will proceed to explore the organism of which we are called to be a part, namely the Church. Our aim is to study the nature, marks, and attributes of the Church. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

### The Doctrine of the Church: The Nature of the Church

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. The Doctrine of Election

III. The Doctrine of the Church

A. The nature of the church

1. Three pictures

a. The people of God the Father

1) 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

b. The body of Christ

1) Ephesians 1:17-23

a) Context: verses 17-19

(1) The hope of their calling

(2) God's inheritance

(3) God's power

b) Picture of the church: Verses 22-23

2) 1 Corinthians 12:14

3) Ephesians 1:22 and Colossians 1:18

4) 1 Corinthians 12:27

c. The temple of the Holy Spirit (corporate)

1) 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

2) 1 Corinthians 3:1-17

a) Gardening image

b) Building image

c) Temple image

2. Historical theology

a. Cyprian (c. 200/210-258)

b. Augustine (354-430)

*See Appendix D for further notes*