

My Forever Family
Titus 2:1-8

FOUR PICTURES OF THE CHURCH

1. The church is a _____ - Our top priority is unity and harmony.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.” (Acts 2:42, HCSB)

*“So then, we must pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another.”
(Romans 14:19, HCSB)*

2. The church is a _____ - We operate on the basis of gifts.

“Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts...” (Romans 12:4–6, HCSB)

In an organization, “maintenance” becomes the focus. In an organism, “ministry” is the focus.

“And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,” (Ephesians 4:11–12, HCSB)

3. The church is a _____ - We are cared for and led by shepherds.

“...He asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” ...“Shepherd My sheep,” He told him. He asked him...“Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”...“Feed My sheep,” Jesus said.” (John 21:16–17, HCSB)

*“Therefore...I exhort the elders among you: Shepherd God’s flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but freely, according to God’s will; not for the money but eagerly,”
(1 Peter 5:1–2, HCSB)*

4. The church is a _____ - We operate on the basis of relationships, not rules.

“Now finally, all of you should be like-minded and sympathetic, should love believers, and be compassionate and humble,” (1 Peter 3:8, HCSB)

*“one who manages his own household competently, having his children under control with all dignity. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?)”
(1 Timothy 3:4–5, HCSB)*

“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and with all propriety, the younger women as sisters.” (1 Timothy 5:1–2, HCSB)

CLOSING THOUGHT:

“...Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching.” (Titus 2:7, HCSB)