

The Church

(Symbols, Shapes and Divisions)

(by: Father Samaan Saint Paul)

The Church is the means of salvation in this world.

The word Church means the collection of believers.

1. The Church is usually built in 3 shapes: Cross, Ship or Circle :

- ❖ It is built in the shape of **Cross** to illustrate that we were saved by the Cross through the crucifixion of Lord Jesus and as the Cross was the means of salvation, now also the church is the only means of salvation in this world.
- ❖ Built as a **Ship** illustrating that, as the Ark of Noah was the means of salvation in the past for all who were inside it, now also the Church protects those who are inside it from the danger of flood of the world.

And as it was impossible for anybody to have been saved at that time unless, if he was inside the ark, now also it is impossible for anybody to get saved without getting protected inside the church

As there was no salvation outside the Ark, there is no also salvation away from the church.

- ❖ It is built in the shape of **Circle** because the circle has no start point or end point, the Church also in an eternal Church, which will have no end, but it is joined from the earth to heaven forever. Here the suffering Church and there in heaven the triumphant Church.

2. According to the Coptic tradition the Church is divided into 3 parts :

- ❖ The 1st part for **the Catechumens**, for those who are preached by faith, they attend the mass and leave the church after the bible and the talk.
- ❖ The 2nd partition for **the repentants**, they attend the mass but do not receive the Holy Communion because they need time to repent, confess their sins and begin a new holy life with God. They attend till the end of Liturgy.
- ❖ The 3rd partition for **the Believers** who receive the Holy Communion.

3. The Church is usually built directed to the east, because :

- ❖ We are usually looking to Lord Jesus who is the sun of righteousness and the sun rises from the east.
- ❖ The church is waiting and watching up for the second coming of Lord Jesus, because he was ascended to the heavens from the mountain of olives near Jerusalem which is in the east (middle east) and when the Apostles were looking at Him ascending, two angels stood beside them and said “why do you stand looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in just to the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”(Act 1:11).

So the Church is usually waiting for Jesus to come in His glory as He said.

This is also the reason why we always pray towards the east direction.



The Old Testament Church and the New Testament Church both met at the person of Jesus Christ, both are looking to Him. All is one church from the beginning till the end (ETERNAL).

Find Peace

*You can find peace in the eyes of the Lord
By believing in Him and trusting His Word
Cast all your cares on Him whose love
Was given to us from Heaven above.
His truth will last forever more
He'll guide our steps to Heavens door.
We will see His face and hold His Hand
When we go with Him to the Promised Land.*

The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were studying geography and they were asked to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

Egypt's Great Pyramid, Taj Mahal, Grand Canyon, Panama Canal, Empire State Building, St. Peter's Basilica and China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet little girl hadn't turned in her paper yet. She asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World is:

"To touch, to taste, to see, to hear, to smell, to laugh and to love."

It is too easy for us to look at the exploits of man regarding them as merely "ordinary." May you be reminded today of those things which are truly wondrous.

**O Lord, how manifold are thy works!
In Wisdom hast thou made them all;
The earth is full of thy creatures. (Psalm 104:24)**