

The Bride of Christ!

Church? Why Belong? Why Bother?

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34–35 ESV

**Our Local Church is _____ to Give Jesus
Priority in Our Ministries!**

I. God’s _____ with His People

- God’s Institution of _____

“Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:23–24 ESV

- Marriage Illustrates God’s Relationship as the _____

“For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.”

Isaiah 54:5–6 ESV

- Jewish Wedding Ceremony Reflects Jesus’ Special Relationship with the _____

“The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.”

John 3:29 ESV

(Also: Matthew 9:14-15)

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

John 14:1–4 ESV

“For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 11:2 ESV

The Lord Desires an _____ with Each Local Congregation

II . Our Special _____ as the Bride of Christ

- _____ under Jesus’ Authority.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:22 ESV

“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

Ephesians 5:23–24 ESV

Examples:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,” Hebrews 10:24 ESV

(Also: Proverbs 6:23)

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” Matthew 18:15 ESV

- **Jesus Love for Our Congregation**

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,” Ephesians 5:25 ESV

“that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:26–27 ESV

Examples:

“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25 ESV

“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” Romans 13:14 ESV

- **Like Jesus Sacrificed for Our Congregation**

“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.” Ephesians 5:28 ESV

“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.” Ephesians 5:29–30 ESV

Examples:

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” 1 John 4:20–21 ESV

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:35–36 ESV

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