Christ Loves The Church

Greg Kline · Ephesians 5:22–33

INTRODUCTION

- In the due process of teaching these marital lessons, Paul was teaching a more important lesson, or perhaps a different lesson of importance, and that's the relationship between Christ and his church.
- The Church of God was established and purchased by the blood of Christ.

1 Christ Loves His Bride

Ephesians 5:25; Romans 5:6–10; 1 Peter 2:9–10

- With what longevity should a husband love their wives? Well, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
- But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Jesus not only purchased the church with his blood, he gave sinful people like myself the opportunity to have my sins forgiven.
- That's not just for husbands and wives. That sets the bar for how we should love others.
- Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2 Christ Gave Himself Up for Her

Ephesians 1:22–23; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4–6

- Literally, it's to pay the price for. It's this idea that we could not pay this debt. And Jesus was there to pay it for us.
- Consider what it means about the church. It means the church is important.
- Upon this rock I will build my church. There is one bride of Christ. There is one church.
- There is one body, just the same as there is one Lord, one Spirit, one God, and Father of all.

3 That He Might Sanctify Her

Ephesians 5:26; Acts 22:16; Colossians 1:13–14

- He wants to present us as holy and without blemish. But how did he do that?
- He sanctified us. That is, he set apart his people.
- Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins. Calling on his name.
- God has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- If we call on his name, if we just emulate what Paul did, what Saul did, call on his name and be baptized, we can have our sins washed away.

4 Christ Nourishes and Cherishes the Church

Ephesians 5:29; 1 Peter 2:1–3; Acts 16:30–33

- For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.
- Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.
- The very words of God are the words of life. That is what we should be feasting upon.
- What does it say about me if I am not reading the word?
- We should take advantage of each and every day to get closer to God, to learn more about what his will is for my life.

5 Christ Will Present Her

Ephesians 5:27

- So that he might present the church to himself in splendor.
- Are we striving for holiness or good enough?
- If we have what we need to be nourished and cherished, we owe him to keep up that standard of sanctification.
- We have been set apart not to go back into the filth, but to be set apart to be clean, to be holy, even as our Heavenly Father is holy.
- Consider that the striving goal of a Christian is not to be good, but to be perfect.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Jesus is the ultimate example, not only of love, but how we ought to be found in his sight.**

MY NOTES