

# HOW TO LOVE YOUR CHURCH

## **Ephesians 5:23-27**

23. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25. **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;** 26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

## **Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?<sup>14</sup> And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.<sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.<sup>18</sup> **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

## **1 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

## **Declaration:**

**The Church is a very important institution.**

- God Has established three institutions. The Home (Gen 2), The Government (Rom 13), and the church (Mat 16). Every institution that God established is important and we as Bible Believing Christians must see the importance of them.
- We must do all we can to preserve, protect, and strengthen the church. The Bible states that, **“even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”**
- Christ paid a high price for the Church.

## **Proposition:**

**How important is the church to you? What have you been doing to show the importance of the church? How much do you love your church?**

## **Illustration:**

There was a 100 year old church member who was having his birthday celebration at his church he had faithfully attended since he was a young man. At his birthday celebration, after everyone had cake, ice cream, gave him cards and gifts in the fellowship hall, the entire group of family and friends, numbering over 100 people, were asked to come to the church sanctuary. His great grandson, a young man in his early thirties, had him come to the pulpit. Before most of the church congregation, he was asked the question, in a loud voice, "Great Grandpa, we all know that you can barely hear and you cannot see, so tell us, why do you still go to church every Sunday?" The 100-year-old, faithful Christian, answered, "Because I love Jesus and my

church with all my heart, He commanded me to be here and I just want to show everybody whose side I'm on."

**Transitional Sentence:**

Let me give some ways that you can show you love your church.

## 1. Pray for the church and leaders

**James 5:16** "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

## 2. Provide

- Make sure we as Christians obey the Lord in our tithes and offerings
- Not only will obeying the Lord in giving our tithe and offerings biblical, it will knit your heart to the Lord's House

**Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**2 Corinthians 9:6** But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

## 3. Practice

- Practice is essential for success. If you want to get good at something you must work at it. You can not just show up and "wing" it.
- As bible believing Christians, it is essential that we come to church as much as possible, when the doors are open. How can we be a part of a team and not go to practice or show up for games? We must be faithful!

**Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching

- Sunday school
  - Sunday Am
  - Sunday PM
  - Thursday
- A. You will get the necessary biblical instruction you need from God's Word.
- Maybe the biblical principle you need will be preached and taught that week.

**Illustration:**

An elderly lady was amazed at how nice the young man was next door. Everyday he would help her gather things from her car or help her in her yard. One day the old lady finally asked the young man, "Son, how did you become such a fine young man?" The young man replied, "Well, when I was a boy, I had a drug problem." The old lady was shocked, "I can't believe that." The young man replied, "It's true, my parents drug me to church on Sunday morning, drug me to church on Sunday night, and drug me to church on Wednesday night."

- B. You will be encouraged by God's word and people

- Life is full of stress. Work, school, chores, and other responsibilities can be draining.

#### 4. Participate

- Get involved in the ministries of the church
- Some people sit, sour, and soak but as Christian let's serve! Be apart of the ministry
- God has given all talents, lets use them for the Lord!
  - Bus ministry
  - children ministry
  - youth ministry
  - Adult Sunday School
  - Greeters
  - Ushers
  - Security
  - Nursery
  - Music
    - These are a few ministries that we have at church that you can give your heart to.
    - Don't just sit on the sideline, GET IN THE GAME!

#### 5. Have Pride in it

- We are not talking about a proud look or a haughty
- We are talking about good pride
- When you take pride in something in value it, you adore it, you are not ashamed to show it. You will not do anything to hurt it or mare its reputation.
- Take pride in your church!!!! Love it and represent it well.

#### 6. Promote and Prospect

- Be apart of showing people who our Savior is and what He can do for them.

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- Promote Jesus and his church.
- Carry tracts with you and give people the gospel and an invite

*Luke 19:10* For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

*The Lord is good—  
Tell it wherever you go,  
The Lord is good—  
Tell it that others may know;  
Tell of His blessings and tell of His love,  
Tell how He's coming from heaven above:  
The Lord is good—  
Tell it wherever you go.*

#### Closing:

The church is so important that Christ died for it. Let do our best to make it important in our lives and love it and be faithful.