

Changing the Way We Think

Ephesians 5:25-27





Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

- Ephesians 5:25-27



*God chose the
symbol of the Bride
to represent the
church.*



In the Old Testament, God refers to the people of Israel as His Bride.



I will accept you as my wife forever, and instead of a bride price I will give you justice, fairness, love, kindness, and faithfulness. Then you will truly know who I am.

- Hosea 2:19-20





In the New Testament, Paul likens the nature of the church to the marriage of a husband and wife.

No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of his body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh."...



This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.

- Ephesians 5:32 MES



In the final book of the Bible, John describes the greatest wedding of all time taking place at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.



Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.



She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.”For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people.

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”

- Revelation 19:6-9 NLT

The church is the Bride of Christ and will belong to Him for all eternity.

And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."

- Ephesians 5:30-31 NLT



Paul's dramatic change of attitude toward the church

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

- Acts 8:1-3



A divine moment with God will change how you think about the church



As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

- Acts 9:3-4





Any wrong I do to the church, in God's eyes, I do to Jesus.

“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

- Acts 9:5



**How I think about the church
is vital to spiritual health
and multiplication.**

**We must learn to think the way
Jesus thinks:**

***Who has known the mind of the
Lord so as to instruct him?" But
we have the mind of Christ.***

- 1 Corinthians 2:16



**Sow a thought, reap an act.
Sow an act, reap a habit.
Sow a habit, reap a
character.
Sow a character, reap a
destiny.**



Agenda harmony with Jesus is the key to falling in love with the Church.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Romans 12:2 (NLT)



Agenda harmony with Jesus
is the key to falling in love
with the Church.

*Then make me truly happy by agreeing
wholeheartedly with each other, loving
one another, and working together
with one mind and purpose.*

- Philippians 2:2 (NLT)



“Loving the Church” Preaching Series Schedule

September 18

God Is at Work!

September 25

Changing the Way We Think

October 2

What We Think About the Church

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I Love to Be Corrected by the Word of God

October 16

What the Church Is ... and Can Be

October 23

A Case for Connection

October 30

A Worldwide Vision and Commitment

For further study and discussion from today’s message, sign up to join a small group. Stop by the small group ministry table located in the foyer.

