

Sermon Series: Loving the Church

Pastor Rick Garmon

October 16, 2011

WHAT THE CHURCH IS...AND CAN BE

Ephesians 3:10

Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

What the Bible teaches us about the visible church:

1. The visible church is where Christ is _____ and at work.
(Matthew 18:20) *Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*
2. The visible church is a _____ community. (Hebrews 10:25)
Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
3. The visible church is where I spiritually _____ in Christlikeness.
4. The visible church is where I _____ and use my spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:1 & 1 Peter 4:10) *Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.*
5. The visible church is my spiritual _____.

6. The visible church helps me _____ Christ's Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19) *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

7. The visible church is what Jesus _____ for. (Ephesians 5:25b) *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

8. The visible church is what Jesus will _____ for. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18) *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.*

Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.