

Reasons We Love God's Church

Text : **Ephesians 5: 22-25**

S#1.

A. Our previous lesson looked at just 5 of the reasons we should love God. **S#2.**

1. He created a beautiful world and lets us use it.
2. He gives us life and an eternal soul.
3. He sustains us with all that is good.
4. He gives us the freedom to choose or to reject Him.
5. He loves us with an eternal love.

** We observed that God wants a close personal relationship with us - not just compliance.*

S#3.

B. With this lesson we want to observe some reasons we should love God's bride.

1. What would your attitude be toward someone who didn't like your wife ?
 - a. They are very complimentary toward you, but speak evil of your wife.
 - b. They want to go places and do things with you, but not with your wife along.
 - c. Would you want to maintain a relationship with them ? I think not.
2. Many today say they want a relationship with Christ, but not with His bride.
 - a. Rejection of organized religion has become part of the devil's organized system, the system which he calls "pop-culture."
 - b. Many do not want to be asked to conform to any system. (*failures at life*)
 - c. Many denominations are seeking to appeal to these with "designer churches."
 - d. Even so, even those in designer churches don't want to be held accountable.

C. The objective of this lesson is to make it clear that one cannot have a good relationship with the bridegroom (Jesus) without loving His bride, His church.

S#4.

D. We will observe only seven of the reasons we should love God's church.

- I. The church is the eternal plan of God for mankind.
- II. The church is still under construction and it's being built by God.
- III. The church is the most expensive purchase ever made on earth - valuable.
- IV. The church is the most sacred place on earth .. built of sanctified people.
- V. The church is where God is glorified on the earth.
- VI. The church is our eternal dwelling place.
- VII. Jesus / God loves the church.

I. The church is the eternal plan of God for mankind.**S#5.**

A. There is a commonly taught error that Jesus came to establish His kingdom on earth, but He was rejected so he set up the church until He returns to fight.

1. They teach that Jesus will return with an army to fight Satan and rule on earth.
2. The kingdom of God was never intended to be His ruling the earth. God seeks love.
3. Remember what Jesus said about His kingdom : (*spiritual .. not physical*)

John. 18: 36 – Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." **S#6.**

B. God prepared the church / kingdom before He created the world.

S#7.

1. Talking about the judgment day Jesus said,

Matt. 25: 34 – Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **S#8.**

2. The atoning sacrifice of Jesus was planned before God created the world.

I Pet. 1: 19-21 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, **#9.** the blood of Christ. **20** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. **S#10.**

C. Thus, we should love the church because it's what God has always wanted for us.

II. The church is still under construction and it's being built by God.**S#11.**

A. God's church is a building that is continually under construction.

S#12.

1. As souls are brought into the kingdom of God it is built up more splendidous.

Eph. 2: 19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. **S#13.**

2. Isn't that great ! You are part of the kingdom which God is personally building.

I Pet. 2: 4-5 – And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood,

cf. – **Heb. 13: 15-16** to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

B. When someone is added to Christ they become a part of His kingdom.

1. Before His crucifixion Jesus prayed for the kingdom to come.

Matt. 6: 9-10 Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **S#15.**

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven.

2. However, after His ascension, His Apostle would write to the church :

Col. 1: 13-14 – For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

C. You and I are the ones God uses to build His kingdom – church – temple. S#16.

1. **I Cor. 3: 9** – For we are God's fellow workers;

2. **Luk 19: 10** –...to seek and save that which is lost (**Eph. 2:10** – are His workmanship)

3. Remember .. **Eph. 2: 19-22** .. We are to build on the foundation of the Apostles & pr

D. Thus, we should love the church because God is still building it for Himself. #17.

III. The church is the most expensive purchase ever made on earth.

S#18.

A. Solomon's temple was the most expensive structure ever built.

S#19.

1. The gold alone would cost approximately \$200 Billion.
2. The silver would cost approximately \$22 Billion
3. **Plus** .. tons of bronze, precious stones, countless timber, quarried stones, labor 153K

B. The most expensive building of the modern era.

S#20.

1. The *Marina Bay Sands* is a resort located in Singapore.
2. It cost 8 Billion dollars to build. (2561 rooms ... casino ... convention center)

C. The cost of the church was more than anything man ever conceived.

S#21.

1. **Acts 20: 28** – Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **S#22.**

2. God who cannot die .. left the glory of Heaven .. took on flesh and sacrifices Himself

D. Thus, we should love the church because the Son of God died to purchase it. #23.

IV. The church is the most sacred place on earth ... built of sanctified stones. S#24.**A. There are many places on earth that men consider holy. S#25.**

1. The birthplace of Budha ... Lumbini in modern Nepal (foothills of Himalayas)
2. Hindu : Varanasi in the state of Kashi the spiritual capital of India (ancient city)
3. Mecca : the birthplace of Mohamad is considered the holiest city in Islam. Haj

B. Wherever the church meets it composes that which is "the most holy place."#26.

1. In O.T. the presence of God was manifested in the Most Holy Place of the temple.
I King 8: 10-11 It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, S#27.
the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could
not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord
filled the house of the Lord.
2. None of the people could go into the presence of God in the temple.
Heb. 9: 6-7 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are S#28.
continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,
7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not
without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the
people committed in ignorance.
3. In the church we have access to the holy place of God any time.
Heb. 10: 19-20 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the S#29.
holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way
which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

C. The church is the holy place where God manifests Himself on the earth. S#30.

1. Every living stone in God's holy temple is pure and holy. (*can't expose God to sin*)
 - a. **I Cor. 6: 11** – Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were S#31.
sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
and in the Spirit of our God.
 - b. **Heb. 3: 1** – Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider
Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;
2. **I Cor. 3: 16** – Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the S#32.
Spirit of God dwells in you? ("you" is 2nd person plural .. the church)
3. God is among us even when we are small in number.
Matt. 18: 20 – For where two or three have gathered together in My name,
I am there in their midst.

*** To come into the assembly of the church is to come into God's presence.#33**

D. Thus, we should love the church because it is the most holy place on earth. S#34.

V. The church is where God is glorified on the earth.**S#35.****A. Christians are the only physical manifestation of God on the earth.****S#36.**

1. **Gal. 2: 20** – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **S#37.**
2. **Phil. 2: 12-13** – So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in **S#38.** my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
3. **II Cor. 5: 20** – Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were **S#39.** making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

B. It's in the church that God is glorified on the earth ?

1. **Eph. 3: 20-21** Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all **S#40.** that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

2. *What am I, are you, we, what is this church doing to glorify God ?* **S#41.**
S#42.

D. Thus, we should love the church because it's the means by which God is glorified.**VI. The church is our eternal dwelling place. (physical temples are destroyed)****S#43.****A. This world will end but the souls of men never end.**

1. No one will be left on the earth because this earth will not exist.
II Pet. 3: 10 – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens **#44.** will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
2. The souls of men are imperishable.
I Cor. 15: 54 – But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, **S#45.** and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

B. After physical death the soul of man lives on.**S#46.**

1. **Luke 16: 19f** ... The rich man and Lazarus
2. Remember the warning of Jesus.
Matt. 10: 28 – And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

C. On that final day, the bodies will come forth and the souls reunited.

1. In the resurrection there will be a division of the saved and the lost. **S#47.**

John 5: 25-29 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

2. **I Thes. 4: 16-18** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, **S#48.** with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

3. If our physical family is not in the church we will never see them again, but our church family will be together eternally.

S#49.**D. We should love the church because in it we have the assurance of eternity w/ God.****VII. We should love the church because Jesus / because God loves the church. S#50.****A. God used the most intimate relationship on earth to illustrate His love for His church.**

Eph. 5: 25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church **S#51.** and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

B. A Christian should love the church as he loves God Himself. S#52.

1. The church is the eternal plan of God.
2. The church is still under construction, being built by God.
3. The church is the most expensive purchase ever made on earth.
4. The church is the most sacred place on earth .. every stone is a sanctified person.
5. The church is where God is glorified on the earth.
6. The church is our eternal dwelling place. *Can never be destroyed.*
7. Jesus / God loves the church. **S#53. Communion Slide**

Lesson Text :**Ephesians 5: 22-33**

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. **28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, **30** because we are members of His body. **31** *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* **32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

I Timothy 3: 14-15

I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; **15** but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.