

# THE CHURCH MATTERS TO CHRIST

TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:22-32

THESIS: WE AIM TO SEE THAT THE CHURCH MATTERS TO CHRIST AND THUS IT SHOULD MATTER TO US.

*INTRODUCTION:*

## **The Nature of the Church:**

An organism and an organization

Universal yet local

## **SEVEN WAYS THAT REFLECT THAT THE CHURCH MATTERS TO CHRIST:**

### I. **CHRIST CREATED THE CHURCH** (32; cp. Matthew 16:18)

The church is God's plan for the ages.

Marks its uniqueness.

### II. **CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH** (25; cp. Acts 20:28)

The church is the object of Christ's affections.

Marks its importance.

### III. **CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH** (23-24, 30; 4:15-16)

Christ is the Sovereign Lord of the church.

Marks our obedience to Christ.

IV. **CHRIST BAPTIZES US INTO THE CHURCH** (30; cp. I Cor. 12:13)

Christ places us into His Body, the church.

Marks our participation in the life and ministry of the church.

V. **CHRIST INDWELLS THE CHURCH** (29; cp. John 15:4; Col. 1:27)

Christ dwells within us by the Holy Spirit

Marks the dependence the church has on Christ.

VI. **CHRIST PERFECTS THE CHURCH** (26-27; cp. Acts 2:42; I Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Christ desires a holy church.

Marks the holiness of the believers in the church.

VII. **CHRIST IS GLORIFIED IN THE CHURCH** (27; 1:7, 12, 14; 3:21; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:6-9)

The object of the church is the glory of Christ.

Marks the ultimate purpose of our existence: live for the glory of God.

**CONCLUSION:**

DOES THE CHURCH MATTER TO US AS MUCH AS IT MATTERS TO CHRIST?

WHERE DO WE NEED TO CHANGE?

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