

DO YOU LOVE MY CHURCH?

Introduction:

1. Why Would I love the Church?

A) Her place in the story of God's redemption

- > Jesus' commitment – **I** will build **My** church
- > In the New Testament we find this commitment focuses upon local congregations

- > When Jesus Christ returns there will be a great feast – the Marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-9)

The beautiful Bride of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27)

B) Her relationship to Jesus Christ

- > The Church is the BODY of Christ (Ephesians 5:23)

- > The Church is the BRIDE of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:1-2; Revelation 19:6-9)

Be careful how you speak about / treat the church which is the Bride of Christ

He loved / loves her so much He died for her

Do you think it a small matter to not love the church

C) The Church is where I fit

- > If I am born again, I am a member of God's family (Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19)

- > If I am born again I am a member of the Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-18)

2. Indicators of your Love for the Church

A) You are a part of the church and the church is a part of you

- > When you love the church you find that your life is intertwined with her life

B) You are a Giver not just a taker

> Love isn't satisfied with just receiving, it wants to give

You give of your time to attend, encourage, edify, serve, etc

You give your talents / gifts for the benefit of the church

You give to help meet the financial needs of the church

C) You Protect the Church

> Our Church Covenant that delineates ways in which we will protect the unity of our church

I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members
(1 Peter 1:22)

I will protect the unity of my church by refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)

I will protect the unity of my church by reconciling conflicts (Matthew 5:24)

I will protect the unity of my church by following the leaders of the church
(Hebrews 13:17)

3. Attacks on the Church

A) False Teaching

> Paul's commitment and warning (2 Corinthians 11:10-15)

B) Selfishness

> Paul's advice to guard against this danger (Philippians 2:1-9)

C) Sinful Behavior

> Obvious sinful behavior can endanger a church (1 Corinthians 5:1-6)

> Acceptable sinful behavior can be just as lethal

Like gossip or complaining (Proverbs 26:20-22; Philippians 2:14-15)

Like the "inactive critic" who is an expert at identifying problems ...never a solution

D) Negligence - The Church is irrelevant in my life

> IF the church fits into my schedule, fine. (Heb 10:21-25)