

Why I Love The Church

(Ephesians 5:23-27)

- Introduction:
1. There are many people who are cynical when they speak of the church.
 2. They see church as a cold, sterile, formal, institution that will run over people if they get in the way.
 3. However, many people see the church as we do: Something to love.
 4. Grant it, the human side of the church remains in a constant state of renovation and repair, but that's really no reason not to love it.
 5. Allow me to share with you three reasons why I love the church.

I. I Love The Church Because Jesus Loves It

- A. My aim in life is to be like Jesus.
 1. I'll never be perfect, but I hope I look more like him today than when I was 20 years old.
- B. Jesus loved the church (Ephesians 5:25).
- C. Notice the extent to which Jesus loved the church.
- D. Do you value the things valued by those you love?

II. I Love The Church Because The Church Is Family

- A. Members of the church are called "children of God" (Galatians 3:26) and "brothers and sisters" (1 Timothy 5:1-2).
- B. Because we're family, we have support.
- C. We don't have to go through life alone.
 1. (Proverbs 13:20).
 2. (Proverbs 27:17).

III. I Love The Church Because Of Its Impact On The World

- A. Don't we all lament the state of the world?
- B. Just think what this world would be like without the preserving influence of the church!
- C. (Matthew 5:13-16).
- D. The church is a moral voice and a conscience in our society.

IV. I Love The Church Because It Is The Saved

- A. Jesus Saves, not the church; but it is the church that Jesus saves!
- B. (Ephesians 5:25-27; Acts 2:47).
- C. If I'm not a part of the church, then no matter what else I may accomplish in life, it's all been for nothing.

- Conclusion:
1. The greatest gift you could ever give the Lord, your mother, and yourself is to love the church of Jesus Christ supremely.