

Church is Rich Wilkerson Jr.

Ephesians 5:25-32

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Church really isn't about _____, it's about _____.

THREE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

1) MINISTRY TO _____.

- a. Praise and worship isn't a _____ for you and I, but a _____ for God.
- b. **Psalm 34:3** – “Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!”
- As I _____ the name of Jesus, his _____ grows bigger in my life.
- What are you magnifying today, the problem or the answer: Jesus.

2) MINISTRY TO _____.

- a. Preaching: All over the world people are listening to someone open up God's word and proclaim the Word of God
- b. **1 Corinthians 1:18** – “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
- “All of us are on our own faith journey, but God speaks intimately to each of us on our journey.” – Rich Wilkerson Jr.

3) MINISTRY TO THIS _____.

- a. As you and I _____ on Sunday, we are supposed to _____ for the rest of the week and be the church.

There's no way to say, I love Jesus but I don't like the church. It's like saying, “I love you Jesus, but I don't like your bride.”

- “Church is full of _____”

- **YES!!** Because church is full of People. People tend to say one thing and do another, that's why we come to church, we are in need of a savior!

THREE REASONS THE CHURCH IS CALLED THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

- 1) _____.
 - _____ is something that we find that brings resemblance to your life.
 - Real intimacy is all about _____.
 - Into me, see. God is not _____ in the projected you, he wants the _____ you.

- 2) _____.
 - The church is protected by the _____.
 - Christ loved the church so much that he DIED for the church.
 - God has stepped into the _____ to protect you so many times you don't even know it.
 - **Ephesians 5** – How do I know that God will protect you? Because he _____ !

- 3) _____.
 - Romans 8 – if we are willing to share in his _____, we will also share in his _____.
 - **James 4** – When you pray, God hears the prayers of _____.
 - Challenge: Let's not get lost in _____ church, Let's declare and decide in our spirit to _____ the church.

Craig Groeschel's Conclusion:

Think It Over

- Is your view of the Church mostly positive, mostly negative, or "meh"? How did you come to this view?
- Rich said, "Whatever we avoid, the devil will invade." What's something you want to stop avoiding?
- We often talk about being the Church. How does this play out in your life?