

I Love My Church -1/08/23

TEXT - Ephesians 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

INTRO –

- I love my church
- I love my family
- I love missions
- I love my school
- I love my country
- I love my God (Christmas)

"Satan's Beatitudes!"

If the devil were to write his beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:

- * Blessed are they who are too tired and busy to go to church on Sundays and Wednesdays, for they are my best workers.
- * Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerism and mistakes, for they get nothing out of his sermon.
- * Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church, for he is part of the problem instead of the solution.
- * Blessed are they who gossip, for they cause strife and divisions that please me.
- * Blessed are they who are easily offended, for they soon get angry and quit.
- * Blessed are they who do not give their tithes and offerings to carry on God's work, for they are my best workers.
- * Blessed are they who profess to love God, but hates his brother, for he shall be with me forever.
- * Blessed are the trouble-makers, for they shall be called the children of Satan.
- * Blessed are the complainers, for I am all ears to them.

I. We must love the church the way God loves the church!

- * God loves the church sacrificially! * He gave His Son for it!
- * God loves the church unconditionally ... When He's pleased with it & when He's not pleased ...
- * God loves His church eternally! * He will never, ever stop loving the church!

3 beatitudes for a church member who truly loves his church

1. BLESSED IS THE CHURCH MEMBER WHO GIVES HIS CHURCH HIS LOVING AFFECTION!

David had a desire to build a house for God!

- * David was going to give to build a house of worship that would benefit someone else!
- * David was going to give to build a house of worship that he would never attend!
- * David was going to give to build a house of worship that he would not even live to see!
- * Had David said, "What's in it for me?" he wouldn't have given one dime to see that house built!
- * "I am willing to build a house of worship even if I will never enter into it if it means God can be glorified, the Word can be preached, and other people can be saved."

David states, **1 Chronicles 29:1** *Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for **the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.***

David gave over several billion dollars to build the temple!

* But it is not WHAT David gave that is so impressive, it is WHY David gave! **1 Chronicles 29:3** *Moreover, because **I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,***

* David gave to God's house because he loved God and he loved God's house!

If Jesus were a physical member of Central Baptist Church, He would come, not just next Sunday, but every Sunday!

And He would gladly give His tithes and offerings to help the work of God get done!

Acts 9:4 *"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"*

Paul was persecuting the church, and yet Jesus said, You are persecuting Me.

2. BLESSED IS THE BELIEVER WHO GIVES HIS CHURCH HIS LOYAL ALLEGIANCE!

Nehemiah 10:39 *For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and **we will not forsake the house of our God.***

The word forsake means: neglect, to let go, or to let loose."

* It describes how a man, after 25 years of faithful marriage, would leave his wife for a younger woman! * It literally means to forsake or desert!

* Now just as it is inexcusable for a man to forsake his wife, it is inexcusable for a Christian to forsake his church!

You can neglect your church by just not coming!

Some who come to church but do not get involved

Ignorance and apathy. Frankly I don't know and I don't care.

Four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody!

* There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

3. BLESSED IS THE BELIEVER THAT GIVES HIS CHURCH HIS LASTING ATTENDANCE - HEB.10:25!

* Your church deserves your consistent, constant, continuous attendance!

Many people only come to church three times in their life!

When they're first born and they get dedicated or christened, when they get married, and when they die! * In other words, they come to church 3 times:

* **When they're hatched, matched and dispatched!**

* **The first time you throw water on them, 2nd time you throw rice, the 3rd time you throw dirt!**

Excuses that people give for not coming to church!

Article: "Pastor Quits Sports"

* Here are the reasons why: Every time I went, they asked me for money.

* The people with whom I had to sit with weren't friendly and didn't speak to me.

* The seats were too hard and not very comfortable.

* I went to many games but the coach never came to visit me.

* The coach made a decision that I didn't like.

* I found out that I was sitting with some hypocrites ... They didn't come to see the ball-game, they just came to see what everybody was wearing.

* Some games went into overtime and I had to wait in line at the restaurant.

* The band played some numbers that I'd never heard before.

* It seems like the games are always scheduled when I want to do something else.

* When I was growing up, my mom and dad used to force me to go to ball-games.

I thank God for our church & I love our church!

* I love it enough to give it my loving affection, I love it enough to give it my loyal allegiance,

* And I love it enough to give it my lasting attendance!

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