

How Important Is The Church? — 07/11/21

TEXT- Acts 11:26 *And when he had found him, he brought him unto*

INTRO – In this day of cultural change the church has become even more of a contrast to the world.

I. What Is The Church

Ekklesia – An assembly

The biblical use – A called out assembly of baptized believers covenanted together to carry out the great commission.

Christians are called out of the world to worship, fellowship, teach and reach a lost world for Christ.

- Christ is its head
- Its members are saved
- Its purpose is evangelizing the world
- Its method is edification of itself
- Its officers are pastors and deacons
- Its motive is the love of Christ
- Its ultimate destiny is heaven with Christ

The church is Christ's representation on the earth

- He died for the church
- He empowered the church
- He loved the church

An offense against the church is an offense against Christ

The church is called the bride of Christ

II. The Church Is The Lord's Visible Manifestation On Earth

A. It is a place of power – To witness

Act 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

B. A place of authority

Mat 18:15-17 *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

1. The authority to baptize
2. The authority to discipline

3. The authority of the Apostles and leaders

Eph 1:22 *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

Eph 5:23-32 *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Col 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

III. The Church is the Place Of Truth and Doctrine

1 Ti 3:15 *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Eph 2:19-20 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

- A. A place to send out the gospel
- B. A place of teaching
- C. A place of gifted teachers
- D. A place of accountability

IV. The Church Is A Place of Encouragement

A. Fellowship

We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Act 2:42 *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

B. Edification

1Th 5:11 *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

C. Protection

Mat 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

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