

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

“We are in our “The Church of God” sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church.”

Call: Revelation 15:4

Text: Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-8

Title: “Church as Bride”

Next Week’s Call: Revelation 21:22-23

Next Week’s Text: Revelation 21:1-7

Next Week’s Title: “Church in Eternity”

Future Calls: Psalm 103:1, 2-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18, 19, 20-22

Future Titles: “The Fruit of Kindness” (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Samuel 18:1-9), “The Fruit of Goodness” (Galatians 5:22-23, Luke 18:18-30), P. David’s sermon, “The Fruit of Faithfulness” (Galatians 5:22-23,), “The Fruit of Gentleness” (Galatians 5:22-23,), “The Fruit of Self-Control” (Galatians 5:22-23,)

Fallen Condition Focus: We do not live or see one another as Christ’s bride.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ laid down His life for us to make us His bride.

Central Truth: “Let us live and see one another as the Bride of Christ.”

Summary: The New Testament refers to the church as the bride of Jesus. We are married to Him. He loves us in our brokenness and shame, and He will sanctify us, clothing us in honor and glory on the Last Day. This is all through His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does it mean for you that we are married to Christ?
2. How does this affect our view of one another?

3. How do we grow in this identity?

- I. Introduction
 - A. Hook- Church as Building, City, Body, Family
 - B. Transition- Lord's Prayer (family); Church as Bride
 - C. Central Truth
 - D. Points
- II. The Mystery (Eph 5:25, 32)
 - A. Chapters 1-3: theology of salvation, chapters 4-6: application of salvation
 - B. Chapter 4: unity in the church & new life in Christ
 - C. Chapter 5b-6: marriage, children, parents, employment
 - D. Marriage order in Scripture (different roles, equal in worth and value)
 - 1. God is the one who created marriage
 - E. Wives- submit to your husbands (vv. 22-24) (3 verses)
 - 1. Role of helper- term of dignity and honor used for God
 - F. Husbands- love your wives as Christ loved the church (9 verses)
 - 1. Profound exhortation back then; great responsibility
 - 2. Marriages back then- void of intimacy and faithfulness
 - 3. Marriage is a picture of the gospel... Christ and the church
 - G. Mystery of marriage: one flesh; leaving mother and father and holding fast
 - 1. Points to Christ and the church
 - 2. Covenant before God and one another- commitment
 - 3. John 15- I am the True Vine, you are the branches; abide in Jesus and He abides in us; union- personal, mystical, spiritual
 - a) Night before His death- He was going to be cut off to bring us in
 - H. We are the bride of Christ. Christ is our groom.
 - I. We are united to Him (one flesh).
 - J. We are united to one another through Christ... almost married to one another through Christ.
 - 1. Membership vows, marriage vows?
 - K. Application
 - 1. Do we abide in Christ? Do we walk with Him?
 - 2. Are we united to one another? Committed to one another? (I don't like you, but I love you)
- III. The Beauty (Eph 5:25)
 - A. We see beauty in Christ's love for us.

- B. Husbands are called to love with a sacrificial love (mentor- husbands should die for their wives; physically- reels showing the opposite, emotionally/spiritually).
 - C. This is what Jesus did for us... He loved us with a sacrificial love.
 - 1. He saw us as beautiful. Attractive? Wife's perspective.
 - 2. Two engagements in college (known for getting married)
 - a) One engagement- fiance- medical issue; hysterectomy; broke off engagement; found her unattractive; still unmarried
 - b) Second engagement- fiance gets into an accident, paralyzed; begged his fiance to leave him; everyone including his family told her to leave him; didn't leave him; two beautiful kids
 - D. Which is beautiful? It's the love that gave, endured, sacrificed.
 - 1. Hosea and Gomer- wife was an unfaithful prostitute who cheated on the prophet; but he redeemed her and restored... even at her lowest... he purchased her.
 - 2. This is Christ's love for us- we were unfaithful, paralyzed in our sin, and yet He loved us and gave Himself for us.
 - E. Application- have we experienced and enjoy the love of Christ?
- IV. The Glory (Eph 5:26-27, Rev 19:7-8)
- A. Jesus will sanctify us- make us holy.
 - B. Jesus will cleanse us and present us in splendor- without spot or wrinkle, holy without blemish.
 - 1. Brides in weddings today- spectacular dress; makeup; flowers everywhere; beautiful; Grooms- fitted suits; hair looking nice; well groomed
 - 2. Pastor Tim Keller would make the joke- may be the best the groom and bride will look for the rest of their lives; not everyday of married life; physically/biologically waste away after that.
 - 3. For us, that is not our past before Christ. It's our future glory.
 - C. Clothed with fine linen (Christ's clothes in Revelation- His righteous and glorious robes, which produces our righteousness).
 - D. Jesus does not see us by our past brokenness but our future beauty... not our past shame but by our future glory.
 - E. God is the One who will make us glorious (Perseverance of the Saints)
 - 1. Eph 5- He is the One sanctifying us.
 - 2. Rev 21:2- we are the city, New Jerusalem, prepared by God as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - F. At the same time, we make ourselves ready (Rev 19:7; Perseverance of the Saints).

1. Podcast- speaker- worked out- best shape- to get girls... to gain the girl. After marriage, was a slob and gained 60 pounds; no drive for anything, especially for wife... and wife left him. He won her back... and it clicked... before he worked out to gain someone. Now, he works out because He loves someone. Best version of himself he can be for his wife.
2. He is working in us, and we are working out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12-13, Eph 2:10).

G. Application points

1. Do we see ourselves as Christ sees us? Not by our past but by our future? Not by our sin but as His bride whom He truly loves?
2. Are we preparing ourselves for the groom? To be presented for Him? Not to earn or gain Him but because we love Him?
3. Do we see one another with the eyes of Christ? Not see one another through the lens of what we have been saved from... but see one another the lens of what we will be saved unto?
4. Do we have the hope of eternity? We know that this is our future. Victory is guaranteed, so we can approach ministry, church, and life with one another.

V. The Story

- A. We are the Bride in this story. And we are the bride together.
 1. Our sins are washed away, because He took on our sins on the cross
 2. We can be brought into our glory, because He took on our shame.
 3. We can be alive forevermore, because He bled.
 4. We can receive His righteous robes of glory, because He took on our filthy garments of transgression.
- B. Weddings back then were centered on the groom, not the bride. So many Hallelujahs in our Revelation chapter: His sovereignty, His victory, His judgment. And we see in our passage- glory to Him in His redemption of His people.
- C. Presbytery speaker- lost ring; dusty and dirty.
- D. Jesus found us. He loved us. He pursued us. He saved us.