

“Glorious Church” 2026 - #2 – Ephesians 1:12-14

Last week, we began our “Glorious Church” series.

We began with a simple, profound truth: We are His Glorious Church.

Not – “We hope to be!”, but “We already are!”

It starts there. Everything else comes from the moment we trust Jesus as our Saviour!

- Jesus Loved Us
- Jesus Gave Himself For Us
- When we accept what He did for us on the cross, when we trust Jesus as our Savior,
 - We become one **with** and **in** Him!
 - We are instantly and forever sanctified and clean, holy and without blemish!
 - He sees us Glorious – His Espoused Bride! Cf. Col. 1:22.

The emphasis-last week – What Happened; Who we became and the relationship that began the moment we trusted Him.

What He has done is forever done, but it set in motion what He is doing now.

That truth is crystal clear in the metaphor of marriage we learned last week in Ephesians 5. **Marriage isn’t over the moment we say “I do”.**

It is the beginning of a new journey. It is the starting point for a lifetime of living hopes and dreams.

We focus on the Church; His Glorious Church. Let’s ask questions the world asks regularly:

- Why the Church?
- What’s the big deal?
- Why become a part?
- Why serve and sacrifice?

We know some of the reasons why people object.

- Sometimes, **our failures feed their skepticism.**

- Some only know **what they observe from the outside**, and have no idea of the driving love on the inside that changes everything.

Again, like marriage –

Some say “No! Never!!” for various reasons.

But, that doesn’t mean marriage is the problem.

People are. Selfishness. Sin. It tarnishes and destroys.

It’s the same for His Glorious Church. His espoused bride.

When selfishness or sinfulness rear their ugliness, people get hurt. It makes people wonder if it’s worth it.

But,

- When Christ is the foundation and focus,
- When everything flows from Him and to Him,
- When we are consumed and driven by His all-consuming, never-failing love...

We begin to understand “Why?”

The Lord, knowing everything, chose His church. Directed every believer to become an active part. Again, Why?

In Ephesians, **God reveals in the most majestic of terms *Why the Church matters so much. Why it should matter to us.***

In 2022-2023 we spent 27 weeks going through Ephesians, and we barely scratched the surface. We can’t even begin to mine all of the amazing truth.

So, for today, we focus on FOUR truths God reveals of His Ongoing work in and through His Glorious Church.

Not just what He’s done, but what He is doing and plans to do!

I. His Desire: “that we should be to the praise of his glory.” 1:12

“That” – Desire; Plans

“We should be” –

Not merely what we do.

“BE” to the praise of His glory.

He is more interested in us becoming the people we can be, were meant to be, that what we can do!

We are learning... Growing... Changing... Becoming the people we were meant to be that is only possible in Him! The best version of us.

“to the praise” –

Not that we are to stand and clap and give praise.

But – that our lives will be such that when He fulfills His work that not only will He see us Glorious, but that our lives will elicit praise for... Look at the next words:

“his glory”

The glory revealed because of Him and belonging to Him!

cf. Col. 1- Christ in you, the hope of glory!

Isa. 6:1-2 – “The earth is filled with His glory”

God’s desire for each one who has “first trusted in Christ” –

Lives so invaded, transformed, and inhabited by the life of Christ that something of God's own glory becomes visible through them.

**Not trophies sitting on a shelf displaying what grace once did.
Living displays of what grace is still doing.**

II. His Glorious Design.

A. 1:22-23

1:1 – Mentions **“to the saints which are at Ephesus and to the faithful in Christ Jesus”**.

This letter wasn’t written and sent to an invisible, universal body. It was directed to a particular group. In a location. Known.

Text: **First mention of Church in Ephesians.**

- Christ is the head. You are members of His body.

- We are meant to be together!
- We are better together.
- **He designed His church and His passion is fulfilled when we yield to Him and become a part!**

B. 3:8-12 - His Intent!

1. His secret revealed!
2. His plan from before the beginning!
3. Vs. 10- "Unto the principalities and powers..."
4. Vs. 10- "might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God""
 - "by or through the church- The means, the agent
 - "make known"
 - "manifold" – ONLY TIME THE WORD IS USED IN THE BIBLE!
"much variegated, marked with a great variety of colours"
"much varied, manifold"
 - "wisdom of God"

A Partnership – Him working in and through us as we meet, gather, grow and go.

5. Vs. 12 – **"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence"**
 Why here? Why needed?

Doubt? Worldly wisdom and answer? Scoffers?
 Is Jesus The Answer?!

- His Words – Life.
- His Will – Love and wonder.

God's intention wasn't merely that He would see us differently because we're in Christ.

His intention is that because we're in Christ, eventually the world will see something different – Him - in and through us.

Not just angels beholding His glory – (Isa, 6, Rev. 5)

But a world glimpsing the wonder and left wondering.

III. His Direction. 3:19-20

He directs us, as He works in us, to focus on His plan for us and our world – His Church!

A. Vs. 20 – Remember Whose We Are! He gives us a glimpse of the God working in us!

B. Vs. 21 -

- He has already revealed that we are bring glory to Him in everything we do! *“be to the praise of His glory”*
- Now, He directs us to the place where that can be best accomplished: *“in the church!”*

*****Much of rest of book- how we do that as He works in us!! Practical. Essential.**

Why the church?

- Because He said so. But behind that...
- Because of What He’s done.
- Because of What He’s doing and wants to do!

Jeremiah revealed, -

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jer 29:11

Israel was not in a good place. In fact, Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet. Israel was a mess. But beyond the mess they made, God had had a plan only He could accomplish! Israel – His. Restored. Glorious. Beautiful.

Ephesians – even greater! Glorious plans for His glorious Church!

- **What’s He’s Done – He will do for you- today!**
- **What He’s working to do in and through us, He invites you into today!**