

Ephesians 5

23. 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;

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.

28. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

“I Love This Place” annual series, “Glorious Church” 2026

#1 – His Glorious Church

Ephesians 5:23-30, 32

We begin a new series as we head into fall. Over the next few weeks, we are going to talk about the church – this church, His church. We’ll talk about blessings... roles and responsibilities... values... mission and purpose. Similar to a series we used to do but haven’t revisited in a while- **“I Love this place!”**

But today, before all of that, there is **something more basic. More important. Something that establishes the foundation for everything else.**

Help me out for a minute. Fill in the blank for me –

“This Church Is _____.”

What comes to mind?

In our text, God fills in the blank with His answer. Paul writes of Christ’s **“Glorious Church”**.

Charles Spurgeon, in his 1865 sermon “A Glorious Church”, explained that Christ **“loved, not because there was loveliness in his Church, but in order to make her lovely.”**

- **Not:** *What’s so wonderful about the church that Jesus loves her?*
- **But:** *What is it about Jesus that He could love her enough to make her wonderful?*

“Glorious Church”. East Somerset Baptist Church. His Glorious Church.

That might actually be a little startling to you.

- After all, you know the folks here...
- And, if we are honest, we know ourselves, and we are here!

So how in the world can we be **“Glorious?”**

Over the next few weeks, we are going to talk about the church – **this church, His church.**

We’ll talk about blessings... roles and responsibilities... values... mission and purpose.

But we begin where it must begin - **What makes us, this church, glorious?**

When we get the answer to that, **His answer**, we'll set the stage for everything he wants to happen right here!

- **When we see us as He sees us, particularly as a church...**
- **Then we can begin to love... and live in the glorious wonder He creates.**

Let's begin with a distinction that is very important.

- **Every person who has trusted Jesus as their Savior is a child of God, and as such, is eternally a part of the eternal family of God.**
 - They don't have to do anything – be baptized, join the church, or anything else.
 - The Scriptures are crystal clear, Salvation is by faith in Jesus alone, not of works.
- **The Scriptures are also clear that if we have truly trusted Christ, we will obey Him. Good works will follow. The two first commands – Be Baptized and Be added to His Church (assembly).**

John Stott –

"The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought."

Church isn't an accessory added to Christianity. It isn't God's Plan B after Jesus ascended. It is woven into His eternal purpose.

"An unchurched Christian is a grotesque anomaly."

C. S. Lewis -

"The New Testament does not envisage solitary religion."

The church isn't merely people who naturally like each other. It is the Body of Christ, whose differing members share one life and actually need those differences to complement one another.

Today, the subject is His Glorious Church.

However, **He takes us to the very foundation of what He did for all – Those a part of His Church, and those who aren't.**

- For those who have never trusted Him...
- For those who are saved but haven't taken the next step...
- For those who are, it becomes the catalyst for everything...

So, how can we possibly be – Glorious?

I. The Picture. *The Metaphor Of Marriage.*

We find one of the most profound revelations of Jesus and His church in a discussion of Marriage.

When God wanted us to “get”, to really grasp, what our relationship with Him through His church can and should be,

He chose the first... the most intimate... of all relationships: Husbands and wives.

It is in **His illustration and explanation** to husbands and wives of how wondrous marriage can and should be, and the key...

That we find the picture of who we really are – *in Him!*

We find that **as great as the illustration, even greater is glory it reflects:**
How wondrous His bride, His church, we are!

II. The Product. Vs. 27. (Result)

We miss it often in the reading; these verses do not primarily describe a work in progress; **they describe a work already done, a finished product!**
It will have future ramifications, but it is grounded in what has already been forever done.

Often, we read the passage kind of like God is saying, “I’m gonna work on you, scrub you regularly, and day by day make something of you”.

Other passages do deal with the ongoing work of God in our lives. But not here.

Here – we begin with **What He’s Done, What He sees! It then becomes the launching pad for everything else.**

A. **“Glorious”** – vs. 27.

Not something for which to strive; something to see and from which to live.

Do we work hard, earn His love, deserve His blessing, strive to become “glorious?”

Though many would claim just that, it is in fact, impossible. The opposite.

Our passage stakes clearly that we are **not working to become glorious, or worthy.**

We are **already glorious to Him, and love and live in that light.**

His church is glorious, WE are glorious, not because of who we are, what we do, how hard we work.

We hope and strive to do great things.... We’ll talk about them over the next few weeks.

But we go forth already loved, already special, confident... radiant... “Glorious”.

B. **“A majestic, mysterious union.”**

Deeper.... Greater... than husband and wife.

Vs. 27 – **Presented to Himself** – Already Glorious. Holy. Spotless. Washed and redeemed. United!

Vs. 30-32 – **One with Christ; Christ in Us; Us – “in Him”**

But... How?!

How can we be... Glorious. Without spot or blemish. Holy?
God explains through Paul...

III. Provisions.

Three simple, three eternally profound statements.

A. Christ *“loved the church”*.

It never begins with us; It begins with Him.

He loved us...

“We love Him because He first loved us”

Explain... - Why that is so radical, and absolutely essential, and best of all, what it did.

B. He *"gave Himself for it"*

1. Why.

2:1-3 – Dead. Sinful. Condemned. Part of another kingdom.

For some, it is not a difficult stretch to see themselves and sinful, guilty, broken. The question they most often ask - "How could He love Me?!"

For those who consider themselves good, moral people – Like the man Jesus addressed in John 3 - It is sometimes so difficult to see that their "righteousnesses" are as filthy rags, according to Isaiah.

There is nothing good.

They have sinned.

They come short.

They need a Savior just like every man, woman, boy and girl...

2:12 – *"having no hope, and without God"*

"What can wash away my sin?"

"What can make me whole again?"

2. What does it mean? *"He gave himself"* - The Cross!

1:7 – we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins"

Cf. Colossians 1:14,20

3. How can I be part of that?! How can I – be made clean. Loved. Glorious. HIS?

1:12 – *"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ"*

2:4+- *"But God..."*

2:8-9 – “By grace... Saved... through faith... gift of God, not of works”

C. “That he might...”

“That”: = “In order that...” – The Results of the Gospel! The gift of God!

What instantly and eternally happens in that moment!

Vs. 26 – “That He might...”

Vs. 27 – “That he might...”

Glorious! Through His eyes. Through the lens of the cross!
Spotless!
Holy!

This whole Passage is about -

- What He’s done, NOT what we have to do.
- What we are, not what we hope to become.
- Whose we are, not who we are.

Love becomes the motivation for everything we do after we are “so loved”!

“This church is _____”
He says... “Glorious!”

How about you? Whoever. Wherever.

- Have you trusted the Savior who loved and gave Himself for you?
- If you have, have you loved Him back by doing what He’s asked?
Particularly,
 - Baptism
 - Church membership
- Church,
 - Do we live, and love, in the light of What He’s Done?
 - Is the fact that we are “His Glorious Church” reflected...