

WHY WE
LOVE
THIS CHURCH

Introduction

In part one, Pastors Kim and Jamie reflect on their early years in ministry and how God reshaped their view of the church from idealism and criticism into love and humility. They share that the church is imperfect and often messy, but it is still Christ's bride, purchased by His blood and deeply loved by Him.

This part invites us to examine our own hearts first, lay down a critical spirit, and learn to love the whole body of Christ.

Part 1: Because You Are The Bride Of Christ

Acts 20:28
28Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Ephesians 5:25
25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church

Part 1: Because You Are The Bride Of Christ

Message notes:

God captured our heart with this thing called _____ .

It's always easier to critique the church than _____.

He purchased not just our church, He purchased _____ church to be his bride.

We've not only learned to love the _____ church, but we've also learned to embrace who _____ are.

Stay in your lane. And we know what _____ _____ is.

We have a church that has a _____. And in that vision, there are things that we do and there are things we don't do.

The cool thing is that we're handing the church off to leaders that know who they are. They _____ this church.

Love this church. Because when you love something... One, you'll be all in. But two, you'll be wanting to talk about it to other _____.

Additional notes:

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Part 1: Because You Are The Bride Of Christ

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul, in Acts 20:28, calls leaders to watch over themselves before watching over the flock. What practical steps of self-examination do you regularly practice?

2.The message draws on the image from Ephesians 5 of Christ as bridegroom and the church as his bride, suggesting that attacking the church is like attacking someone's spouse. How does holding that image in mind change the way you speak about the local church, whether your own or others?

3. The concept of having a vision and "staying in your lane" is important to the Vineyard. How does having a vision for your own life help clarify your values and guide your decisions?

4. Pastors Kim and Jamie describe killing several well-loved programs in order to make room for something new the Spirit was leading them toward. What does it look like in your own life to let something good die so that something God is initiating can grow?

5. If you believe God has called you to be part of this church, you need to be truly invested. What does it look like for you to not just attend, but to be loving, serving, giving, praying, and helping carry the vision forward?

Ministry Time:

Pray for anyone facing a decision. Ask the Holy Spirit to give them vision and reveal what He wants them to know before moving forward.

Pray specifically for the Vineyard and its leadership—not for what you wish it were, but in gratitude for what Christ is building through it.