

What is the Church?

Part 3: Helper, Companion, Beloved (3/15/26)

Please turn to *Genesis 2:18-24*

PREVIOUSLY:

- Jesus is God! He is immortal, unchangeable, all powerful, created all things, and created them for HIS pleasure.
- The Church is a direct creation of Christ, and He created us to ENJOY us which is why, at the end, He says “enter into the joy of your Lord.”
- We don’t enter into our own joy, but His. We don’t live for our own pleasure, but His.
- We will endure forever, because it was a forever God that made us.
- Individually we can be persecuted, falsely accused and arrested, get sick, have accidents, get old, lose our homes and money.
- These bodies and all our earthly possessions are still part of this world and subject to its problems and unfairness.
- The Church has survived multiple massive empires who hated us, and brought all their power to bear to stamp us out. We will survive right up until Jesus returns!
- We are both the body and bride of Christ: the two are the same.
- Ephesians 5 talks about marriage with the husband as the head and the wife and his body.
- Paul says it’s a direct comparison to the relationship of Jesus to the Church.
- We are also overcomers and quoted from 1 John 5 to prove it.
- The Church doesn’t overcome with physical or political power. We’re not meant to build a physical army and go on another Crusade. We’re not designed to take over the government and make everyone and every law Christian.
- We overcome by having faith in Christ.
- More specifically: holding onto and valuing the eternal gifts He gave us like salvation, resurrection, and being a joint-heir of His kingdom!
- No devil or human can take these things away from us, therefore we automatically overcome no matter what they try.

TODAY in the final installment of this series, I end with the beautiful truth that the **Church was created to help and be loved...by Jesus.** Hated by this world. Hated by the devil. But loved by God and working by His side.

In the review of last week’s sermon, I repeated that *we were created for Jesus’ enjoyment*...for His pleasure. Allow me to go deeper.

- He didn’t make a nice car that He could admire, polish, and cruise down the street with.
- He didn’t make a gourmet meal that smells and tastes good.
- He didn’t build a nice deck that He could rest on to enjoy the sunrise.

He made for Himself a companion, that was like Him.

[Gen 2:18-24 ESV] 18 Then the LORD God said, "**It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.**" 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.** 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he **made into a woman and brought her to the man.** 23 Then the man said, "This at last is **bone of my bones** and **flesh of my flesh**; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and **hold fast to his wife**, and they shall become **one flesh**.

Symbolic comparison: **Adam is Jesus and the Church is Eve.**

Verse 18: the *Church was created to be a helper to Jesus*. There are two types of helpers and we were created to be the second one.

- The first one is needed, the second one is wanted/chosen.
- We are wanted/chosen.
- **It's better to be wanted and chosen than it is to be needed.**

God is perfectly happy, perfectly complete, and leads a

full life. He doesn't "need" anyone in the sense that someone else would complete Him...as Jerry McGuire once famously said. Yet look what God does: He brings the animals to Adam and allows Adam to name them. God could have named them Himself, but He chose Adam to help Him.

Adam was the lone human on the planet, but he wasn't

lonely. He was perfectly happy, complete, and led a full life. He had a job to do, a commandment given to him by God before Eve came into existence: to be the gardener of Eden.

Just as Adam helped God, Eve was created to help Adam. IDK how big the GOE was, but no doubt she grabbed a trowel and pitched in. They did it together. Adam could have done it all himself, but he chose Eve to be his wife and helper. His companion...one like him, made in his image.

Verse 22: After God creates Eve, He brings her to Adam...this is **martial language** as I explained last week. Potential brides are presented by their dads to potential grooms. God is Eve's Dad, and He presents her to Adam.

Verse 23: is a body reference—*they are one body*. Same bones, same flesh, one body.

Adam is Jesus and Eve is the Church.

He doesn't need us, He chose us because He wants us.

Some people are nervous when they hear this whether it applies to Christ or another human being. They believe that if they aren't needed by their spouse, family, or friends, they might be abandoned. As if the only glue that holds a bond between two people is need.

Wrong. Look at verse 24: **Adam declares that he will "hold fast"** and your KJV says "cleave" to his wife. The translation of the word is "stick with, join, pursue closely, overtake." In other words, Adam isn't going anywhere and he's not going to let her go. Scripture says they were married over 900 years and if that's not staying power, IDK what is!

He didn't accept us out of duty or obligation, He chose us out of love.

We don't want a God that needs us, we need a God Who wants us.

Jesus isn't Jerry McGuire. *We don't complete Him, He completes us.*

The KJV uses the word "perfect" and "perfected." Reminder: perfect doesn't mean flawless, it means complete. No holes, no voids, no loose ends, no leftovers. Jesus has perfected our spirits already, and He's working on the rest of us. His work will be done when He descends from heaven with a shout and calls us into the air.

- I need Christ to be complete because I'm not.
- I need Him to be full, because I'm not.
- I need Him to be all powerful and knowing, because I ain't.
- I need His love for me to endure EVERYTHING despite me, my flaws, my bad choices, and my problems! Because my version of love doesn't do that!

He created us to help Him make disciples. Two weeks ago, I quoted the part where He says "*do the business of the kingdom (occupy) until I return.*" Indeed, He ascended to heaven where He's seated on a throne at the right hand of God our Father.

He didn't leave us orphans, but sent the Holy Spirit to live within us so that we're empowered to continue His work here on earth. Thus for the last 2000 years, the Church has continued to do so. Quite imperfectly, yes, but we've endured and carry on the work of Christ.

Last, we are beloved by Him!

I love that word and translation is simple: **"dearly loved, favorite, worthy of love."** At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, when He gets baptized, God the Father speaks from the sky and says "this is My BELOVED Son, in Whom I am well pleased." The first time I read that, I said "I want God to say that to me!!!"

DREAM. A year ago, I had a dream. I was walking through the woods on a path, and I saw Jesus. He called out to me speaking in Hebrew, but I heard Him in English. He called me "Little Brother." As soon as He said that, I started to cry really hard. Why? In the dream, I said out loud: "Who am I that the all powerful Creator of the Heavens and Earth would call ME His 'little brother'?" My tears weren't ones of shame, but ones of thankful joy that He would feel this way about me.

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I know I'm not worthy, in and of myself, to be loved by Jesus. I know that I disobey and ignore Him and therefore deserve the opposite of love. Yet there's a greater truth than my sin, it's that He chose me first. Chosen = loved. His love endures through my sins, rebellion, and failures.

[Col 3:12 ESV] 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

God's CHOSEN ones = Holy & Beloved!

[Rom 1:7 ESV] 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I may not be from Rome, **but I'm loved by God and called to His saint!**

Last week we quoted this from Ephesians 5, so let's go back there:

[Eph 5:28-32 ESV] 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but

nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Verse 29: have you ever been **tempted to think God hates you**? As a Christian, your mind believes the teaching it's gotten that God loves us. But our hearts try to bring Him down to our level...to make Him like us. What we are we like? Our love is flawed and we withdraw it when others sin against us too long and too much. Sometimes a person we start out loving, we end up hating...and they hate us too.

Great news: Jesus isn't like us. We cannot bring Him down to our level. We don't complete Him, He was already perfect when He first approached us. When He proposed marriage, He was doing so for life...eternal life. If Adam loved Eve 900 years and stayed married to her to death, and Jesus is superior to Adam and won't die, Jesus marriage to us is forever.

Back to verse 29: **no one ever hated his own body**. Verse 32: Jesus is comparing Head/Body to Christ/Church. We are His Body. He doesn't hate us.

Do you think Jesus loves Himself? Or is He insecure Jerry McGuire needing someone else to complete Him? Verse 28: "Love your wife like your own body. When you do, you love yourself." If Jesus hated the Church, or even one member in the church, He would hate Himself. Can He do that?

Then next time an **internal voice says "God hates you"** respond with "nope. I'm His body and He can't hate His own body. He loves me." Go on to tell it that Jesus isn't self-hating because He's not insecure; He's complete.

Verse 31: His love for us inspires Him to "hold fast" and other translations said "cleave, join, cling to." In Matthew 19, when asked about marriage, Jesus quotes this verse and adds:

[Mat 19:6 ESV] 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

He uses a Greek phrase **"joined together"** which was used back then of **two oxen** yoked together pulling a plow. While you might think this is an unflattering image, it's not, because we're right back to the beginning. To Adam alone in the GOE and God creating a Helper, comparable to him. Someone to plow the garden dirt alongside him, plant seed, and watch it grow.

Jesus is Adam and we were created from one of His ribs, then joined together with Him in love, marriage, and Kingdom business.

[Jhn 15:9 ESV] 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

[Rom 8:35, 38-39 ESV] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.