



## THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH (Week ) - Community of Love

Call to Worship: the Lord's Prayer

Offering Prayer:

### **Revelation 5:13**

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Father, we look forward to the day when we see your Son and become like Him, for we shall see Him as He is and will gaze upon this incredible God. So, now, Father, receive our offerings and as we look to You and Your Son, may the Holy Spirit be present among us today.

### **Blessing Upon the Word:**

Eternal Father, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Father, you built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone. Join us together by their teaching, so that we may be a holy temple in whom your Spirit dwells; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Introduction - recap of the motive of the mission being love. Jesus said that all people will judge whether the gospel is true or not by how the church loves one another.

So, if love is the motive of the mission and the final apologetic to the world is our demonstrable love for one another, what does the Bible say about our relationships? Many of the images the Bibles gives us of the church are images of the closest relationships we can experience in this life.

### **The Human Body:**

## **Romans 12:5**

5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

## **1 Corinthians 12:12**

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Just as Christ has joined us to Himself by His Spirit, He has joined us to each other. And just as each individual is unique, when Christ brings a group of people together as a church they become a unique church body.

- Church Unique

As we move on, you will see how every one of these examples begins with Christ. It

begins with His relationship to us and then extends to our relationships with each other.

### Friendship:

## John 3:29

29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

John the Baptist rejoiced when Jesus Christ was lifted up, when Jesus was glorified. To lift up is to speak well of, to praise. It's the same thing for a body of believers who come together. We rejoice when Jesus Christ is lifted up. But we're going to see that in the same way that we rejoice when Jesus is lifted up, we should rejoice when we lift up each other.

Again, God shows us how our relationships with each other are based upon His relationship with us. It all flows from the love of the gospel.

### Bride and Groom:

## Isaiah 62:5

5 For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Now, we saw John the Baptist rejoicing over Jesus. Now, we see God rejoicing over you. This is like the bride or groom on their wedding day (hopefully both) when we hear them say, "This is the happiest day of my life." Which is such a sad statement when you think about it. If that's your happiest day, it's all downhill from there. But the point is, there is a self-forgetfulness in loving someone else, in rejoicing over them.

In the same way that being in love with someone makes you self-forgetful, when we're focused on the Lord we become less selfish and this makes us better neighbors and betters Christians toward each other.

The friend rejoices in his friend's happiness, like John the Baptist. If God rejoices over you, then you should also rejoice in your friend's happiness. I think a lot of us have a problem with the idea that God rejoices in our

happiness. We tend to think that if we're happy, God's upset with us. It's a distorted view of God. The Bible presents Christ as our truest, most faithful Friend. Since He is the Best Friend we will ever need, we can be a good friend to others.

That's simple enough and yet we have envy and jealousy and all these sinful emotions which often stem from not understanding God's view of us. If you don't believe God wants you to be happy, you won't rejoice when others are happy. Because deep down you don't actually believe God is happy about their happiness.

Why do we even experience happiness? God is a happy God. As corny as that sounds, there is substantial biblical proof for it.

**Husbands and Wives:**

## **Ephesians 5:25; 28-30**

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Jesus Christ has opened the way for God to rejoice over us. Jesus Christ has opened the way for God to rejoice in our happiness. What do I mean by that? Well, if you're living

in rebellion against God, meaning that you look to your own devices or the wisdom of other people instead of looking to God, you are working in opposition to His rule and reign. This happens sometimes knowingly, sometimes unknowingly. But God sends out messengers who proclaim that there is a way back into His good graces and that is through the Son He sent to take the penalty of your rebellion. When you turn to Christ and receive the forgiveness of sins, this opens the way for God to rejoice over you.

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.

**Parent and (Adopted) Child:**

## **Ezekiel 16**

16 Again the word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations, 3 and say, Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. 4 And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. 5 No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

6 “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ 7 I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

8 “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. 9 Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. 10 I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. 12 And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. 14 And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God.

**When you know how you’re loved, it frees you to love. When the church falls short in loving each other it is a theological problem. We’re not convinced from Scripture of God’s love for us and therefore we love incompletely. It’s not a love that testifies to the truth of the gospel, but instead relationships that testify to the disfunction of our theology.**

**“They will know you our Christians by our love, not our doctrine.”**

**Brothers and Sisters:**

## **Hebrews 2:11-12**

11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying,

**“If you’re good enough for God, Jesus says, You’re good enough for me.”**

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

**Jesus shows us the Father. Jesus is singing the praises of His Father. Jesus said, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”**

**So, Jesus has shown us the exact nature and character of God and we’re to show the world the nature and character of Jesus by how we love one another.**

**Have you ever felt someone was ashamed to admit they know you? Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters. So, we**

should not be ashamed to call one another brothers and sisters.

- The characteristics of brothers and sisters

I believe the Holy Spirit uses relationships to develop in us a more Christlike character.

- Example: Producers

## Extra Notes:

### Revelation 21:2

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

### Revelation 21:9

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."

### Isaiah 61:10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;

my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

## 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

### Living Stones:

## 1 Peter 2:4-8

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,"

8 and

"A stone of stumbling,

and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

## **1 Corinthians 6:19**

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

### **Vine and Branches:**

## **John 15:5**

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

### **A Field:**

## **1 Corinthians 3:6-9**

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

## **Matthew 13:1-9**

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell

on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear."

## **John 4:35**

35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.