

I Love My Church- Week 4

Big Idea: Church membership is a supernatural gift.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1 Corinthians 12:27 (CEV)

Now you are Christ's body, and individually, members of it.

{Greek- Meros- a part, a share, a portion, a part assigned to a whole, given a measure, imperfect apart from the whole}

Galatians 2:20 (CEV)- I have died, but Christ lives in me. And now I live by faith in the Son of God...

Colossians 3:9b-10 (ESV)- seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

2 Peter 1:4 (NLT)- And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)- This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Romans 6:4 (ESV)- We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Matthew 16:18 (NLT)...“I will build my church..”

Luke 19:10 (NLT)- For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

I am a supernatural child of God.

-I became new when I gave my life to God. (2 Corinthians 5:17NLT)

-“It's only natural.”- That's a lie for a Christian. My new nature is the nature of Christ. It is against my nature (as a Christian) to do what is only natural. Why settle for less than what has been promised to us? (2 Peter 1:4) (It's in the church we discover these truths- in relationship with other supernatural new creations.)

-I have been given the right to the supernatural. To be above the old, natural self. My natural self is buried with Christ (Romans 6:4). In order to operate in the natural, I must dig up a dead thing and embrace that decaying way of

death.

The church is supernatural.

-Christ created and established the church. (Matthew 16:18) That makes her supernatural.

-In order to truly experience the gift of church membership, we must partake as a supernatural re-creation; not a natural human.

-As long as we view church membership from the natural, we will feel a sense of obligation, of begrudging compliance, of complacency

-Receiving the gift of church membership in the supernatural (above natural) gives us a sense of humbled honor, unity and commitment.

-We are individually members of the church- 1 Corinthians 12:27-
INDIVIDUALLY-imperfect apart from the whole- it's not about my identity separate from the local church- He was pointing out my imperfection outside of the local church- supernatural community

-We have a supernatural purpose.

-When we simply embrace and cling to who He has already made us to be, we would gladly give up our lives for what He gave up His life for- His lost children. – Luke 19:10