

The Church – So Much More

- What Is The Church?
- Is The Church Universal or Local?
- How Does The Church Function?
- What Does The Church Mean To Me?

What Is The Church

- Christ's Bride: Submit – Find Place
- Christ's Body: Serve – Find Purpose
- God's Voice: Speak – Find Power

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What Is The Church

“For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

-Ephesians 5:31-32

What Is The Church

- The Church is Christ's Bride

-Relationship, not a system

"Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.'"

-Matthew 7:22-23

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

-Isaiah 29:13

"may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

-Ephesians 3:18-19

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

-Psalm 122:1

". . .how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng."

-Psalm 42:4

- The Church is Christ's Body

-Substance, not a performance

"and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick."

-John 6:2

"Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.'"

-John 6:53

"He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow."

-Colossians 2:19

- The Church is God's Voice

-Council, not a speech

"Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice."

-Ezekiel 33:32

"But which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word?"

-Jeremiah 23:18

"But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to the people, and would have turned them from their evil ways."

-Jeremiah 23:22

"My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. . .will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

-John 14:23,26

The Church is visceral, not organizational

"Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, 'Live!'"

-Ezekiel 16:6

"Later, I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine."

-Ezekiel 16:8

"And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign Lord."

-Ezekiel 16:14

What Is The Church

- Apple of God's eye
- Only source of your Place, Purpose, Power