

Why is the Church Important?

Eph 5:25-32

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show why the church is important.

- Intro:
1. There are times when we must remember why some things are important.
 2. The Lord's Church is of great importance and we do not want to forget why.

I. The Church spiritual importance

A. Only the Church contains the saved

1. One is saved when they are baptized (**Acts 2:37-38**)
 - a. They enter the church at baptism (**Gal 3:26-27**)
2. One is saved only when they are a part of His body and His body is the church (**Eph 1:22-23**)

B. Only the Church contains sound doctrine.

1. Teaches the doctrine of Christ (**2 Jn 9-11**)
2. By teaching only God's Word only truth is taught (**Jn 17:17**)

II. The Church & Family

A. Church Family

1. Why use the term brother or sister? (**1 Thess 3:2** "beloved brother")
 - a. Because the church is a family.
2. A family implies closeness. Caring for one another. Loving one another. Looking out for one another.

B. The Church and your family

1. The church is benefit for the family (**Eph 6:4**).
 - a. Admonition – correct using God's Word & encourage using the same word.
2. The family and the church love one another and work together.
 - a. It's not a selfish relationship, the church doesn't taking advantage of families nor are families to take advantage of the church.
 - b. It's relationship that builds up both the family and the church.
 - c. The church encourages and builds up itself (**Eph 4:15-16, 16b**)

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. The Church is the spiritual ark

1. **Hebrews 11:7**; those in the ark were saved because of their obedient faith.
 - a. the same is true with the church today.
2. **Revelation 22:14-15**; those outside were the disobedient who are recognized here in several ways.

B. The Church is the best family one can have.

1. Because the church is a family, it's a place of love and refuge.
2. The church is a place of security because of like-mindedness (**Phil 2:1-4**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. The Church is not an institution to be ignored, down-played or cast aside.
2. No one goes to Heaven without the Church.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9