

# GOD'S PASSION FOR HIS CHURCH

## PART ONE

**Note:** This is message will either blow up your mind or bounce your mind.

1. Church is God's people, His community, not a place or property.
2. Church is not some people in the church that you like based on language or color or education or status or hobbies. Church is a community of all kinds of people which has the blood of Christ as the basis for their relationship with one another.

**Ephesians 1:22-23**, And he [God] put all things under his [Christ's] feet and gave him [Christ] as head over all things to the church, which is his [Christ] body, the fullness of him [Christ] who fills all in all.

⇒ Christ is the **head of the church** (headship of Christ) **YOU CANNOT HAVE CHRIST AS YOUR LORD WITHOUT BEING A PART OF HIS CHURCH.**

- **Example:** If my son refuses to be a part of my family, can he be under my headship?

⇒ The Church is **Christ's body** (union with Christ)

- Just as not a part but all kinds of parts make up the body, likewise, it is not an individual Christ but all kinds of members that make up the body of Christ. Just as the body is a part of the head and is inseparable, the church also is united with Christ and is inseparable. **IF YOU ARE NOT A PART OF CHRIST'S BODY, HIS CHURCH, YOU EVIDENCE THAT YOU DO NOT BELONG TO CHRIST AND HAVE UNION WITH HIM.**

⇒ The Church is the **fullness of Christ** (image of Christ). **YOU CANNOT EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESS THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST WITHOUT BEING A PART OF HIS CHURCH. YOU ARE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.**

**I. Acts 20:28**, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, **which he obtained with his own blood.**”

What shows here God’s passion for the church?

- He obtained the church with His own blood. [GOD’S LOVE]
- He appointed shepherds to care for the flock. [GOD’S CARE]

**Ephesians 5:25**, “Husbands, love your wives, as **Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.**”

ONE CAN ONLY DIE FOR SOMETHING FOR WHICH HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT!

**III. John 21:15-17,**

- ❖ [15] When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, **do you love me more than these?**” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “**FEED MY LAMBS.**” [16] He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “**TEND MY SHEEP.**” [17] He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “**FEED MY SHEEP.**” [CARE FOR MY SHEEP, THE CHURCH]

**Note:** “More than these”:

1. More than your profession, i.e. fishing.
2. More than the other disciples love me. **Mt 26:33**—Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

**Question:** If am going to leave to a far distance, and if I ask you, “Do you love me” and if you said “Yes”, and if I say “Take care of my two sons” what does this speak about my heart?

**Question:** Jesus asks, “Do you love me?” If you say “Yes”, He would say, “Care for my church.”

**Thought:** What is the best way to express your love for the person? To love what he/she loves.

**Comment:** Caring (loving) the church is not just the responsibility of elders/shepherds. It is the responsibility of all (If you don't believe this, then see I Corinthians 12:12-26).

**Contradiction:** Some confess of loving Jesus but don't love the church. They sing songs of love for Jesus but they don't sacrifice their time, money, comforts for the church. Jesus says, "If you love me, love my church."

## **YOU CANNOT LOVE JESUS WITHOUT LOVING HIS CHURCH.**

**Illustration:** A woman went to a pastor and said, "I don't like spending time with people. What do you think is my problem? My psychologist friend says that my personality is different." The pastor looked at her with compassion and said, "Do you want my honest answer?" She said, "Yes." "The problem you don't like spending time with people is because you don't love them. If you love people, you like to spend time with them."

**I John 4:21**, "And this commandment we have from him: **whoever loves God MUST also love his brother.**" WHY? BECAUSE GOD LOVES HIS CHURCH. HIS PASSION IS FOR THE CHURCH.

**Question:** HOW DO YOU BEST EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD? [Just songs/prayer]

**Hebrews 6:10**, "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and THE LOVE THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN FOR HIS NAME *in serving the saints*, as you still do."

IF YOU CLAIM TO LOVE GOD BUT DO NOT SERVE HIS SAINTS,  
YOU ARE A LIAR!

**REMEMBER, EVERY GOOD WORK YOU DO FOR GOD'S CHURCH, HIS COMMUNITY, YOU EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND GOD WILL REWARD YOU ON THE LAST DAY. PEOPLE MAY OVERLOOK YOUR WORK BUT GOD, WHO IS JUST, WILL NOT OVERLOOK YOUR WORK.**

**Illustration:** A newly married couple in our church came to my house desperate to serve the church in some way or the other and asked my counsel about how to go ahead. WHAT A DELIGHT THAT FAMILY IS TO GOD!

**Note:** DO YOU EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD BY SERVING HIS SAINTS?  
**Caring (loving) church is not merely attending Sunday service.**

**IV. Philippians 2:19-21**, “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. **I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those [INTERESTS] of Jesus Christ.**”

**What is the interest of Jesus Christ?** The welfare of the church.

**Everyone looks out for his own interests** (speaking about God’s people)—job, money, education, future security, comforts, own family...etc.

**Note:** Those who focus on the welfare of the church, pleases the Lord Jesus and are interested in the interests of Jesus Christ. God’s passion is for the church.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE FOR THE CHURCH AND SEEK ITS WELFARE?

- Do you *love the fellowship of the saints* that you don’t afford to miss church meetings? *If you love, you want to fellowship.* (Heb. 10:25)
- Do you *cultivate love relationship* with your spiritual siblings in the church and seek their welfare? *If you love, you cultivate love relationship?* (Rom. 12:10)
- Do you *pray* for the church and seek their welfare? *If you love, you pray.* (Eph. 6:18)
- Do you *encourage* the members of the church and seek their welfare? *If you love, you encourage.* (Heb. 3:13)
- Do you *show hospitality* to the church and seek their welfare? *If you love, you offer hospitality.* (1 Pet. 4:10)
- Do you *help* those in need within the church and seek their welfare? *If you love, you help.*

**Biggest problem:** Individualism (self-interest, self-profit, self-happiness)

**Sad fact:** Church is the least priority for many Christians.

**Examples:**

- ⇒ When a Christian family moves to a place, they search for a house closer to their job and their children school. And then after they settle, they think about the church. **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM. Example:** A sister at EEF first sought the church and then she moved.
- ⇒ When a job takes too much of time, there is a complain that there is no time with the family. But they do not grieve that they have no time for the church? **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ Christians works for 8-10 hours every day in the weekdays but once a week if they have to spend 4-5 hours, they grumble it is too long service. **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ Christians show up to their family members every day and work for 5-6 days but if they are asked to show up for church meetings at least two times in a week, they grumble it is too much gathering? **NO LOVE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SAINTS. CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ When holiday comes, Christians plan something for their family. Do they also plan some time for the church? **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ If Christians get extra money they consider how to invest for one's own family. Do they also think about how they can spare some money to invest in the church? **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ When a family member is sick, you bunk work and even church, but when a church member is seriously sick, do you show care for them in anyway? **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ When Christians want to visit their hometown or some place, they always plan in a way that they can miss the church in the weekend but not their work in weekdays. **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**
- ⇒ When Christians have problems with their siblings in their family, they still live as a family. But if they face problems in the family of God, they leave the church. **CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.**

⇒ Christians are very committed and diligent in their workplace but when it comes to responsibilities in the church, they are slack and irresponsible? CHURCH IS THE LEAST PRIORITY FOR THEM.

**HOW TRUE! “For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those [INTERESTS] of Jesus Christ.”**