

Sunday Morning, November 6, 2022
What is Christ's Church from God's Perspective?
Eph. 1:22–23; 2:19–22; 3:8–11, 21; 5:25–27

- I. The Church Is the Body of Christ; Christ Is the Head of His Church Eph. 1:22; 5:23; 5:29–30; Col. 1:18

- II. The Church Is the Fullness of Christ Eph. 1:22B–23

- III. The Church Is the Temple of God Eph. 2:19–22; Matt. 16:15–19; Eph. 4:11–12; 2 Tim 2:2, 14

- IV. The Church Is the Wisdom of God Eph. 3:8–11
 - A. The Church Is God's Displayed Wisdom Eph. 3:10

 - B. The Church Is God's Marvelous Wisdom Eph. 3:10

- V. The Church Is the Glory of God Eph. 3:21

- VI. The Church Is the Bride of Christ Eph. 5:25–27

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Quotes

"These days. . . Both inside the church and out, organized religion is seen as oppressive, irrelevant and a waste of time. Outsiders like Jesus but not the church. Insiders have been told they can do just fine with God apart from the church."
DeYoung

"There is not one visible Church and another invisible; but one Church, invisible in the spiritual, and visible in the material world. And as God cares for both body and soul, so does Christ govern the external affairs of the Church just as certainly as with His grace He nourishes it internally."
Kyper

"Every body needs a head to rule over it—to give it direction and purpose, to instruct it in the way it should go, to hold things together and give life to its members."
DeYoung

Jesus Christ's "transcendent authority over every power and authority is focused supremely on his glorious purposes in and for the church. She alone is his body with a special role in God's design for the world. Nothing else possesses a higher role and significance for the purposes of God." Craig Troxel

Westminster Confession 25.1 The catholic (that is, universal) church, which is invisible, consists of all the elect who have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ its head. This church is his bride, his body, and the fullness of him who fills all in all.

"God says that He does not consider himself full and perfect, except by gathering us to himself and making us all one with himself." John Calvin

"The church exists so that angels would stand in awe of the wisdom of God. God displays his wisdom in history so that the worship of heaven would be white hot with admiration and wonder." John Piper

"The history of the Christian church becomes a graduate school for angels." J A Mackay

"Secular history concentrates its attention on kings, queens, and presidents, on politicians and generals, in fact on 'VIP's.' The Bible concentrates rather on a group it calls 'the saints,' often little people, insignificant people, unimportant people, who are however at the same time God's people—and for that reason are both 'unknown [to the world] and yet well-known to God. Secular history concentrates on wars, battles, and peace-treaties, followed by yet more wars, battles and peace-treaties. The Bible concentrates rather on the war between good and evil, on the decisive victory won by Jesus Christ over the powers of darkness, on the peace-treaty ratified by his blood, and on the sovereign proclamation of an amnesty for all rebels who will repent and believe. Again, secular history concentrates on the changing map of the world, as one nation defeats another and annexes its territory, and on the rise and fall of empires. The Bible concentrates rather on a multi-national community called 'the church,' which has no territorial frontiers, which aim is nothing less than the whole world for Christ, and whose empire will never come to an end." John Stott

"It is because the universe is so vast, the heavens so glorious, the earth so beautiful and teeming, that they reveal the boundless affluence of their maker. [but even greater] it is through the church God designs specially to manifest to the highest order of intelligence, his infinite power, grace and wisdom." Charles Hodge

"Some people construct a Christianity which consists entirely of a personal relationship to Jesus Christ and has virtually nothing to do with the church. . . [they] have given up on the ecclesiastical institution as hopeless. . . But we need to beware lest we despise the church of God, and are blind to His work in history. We may safely say that God has not abandoned his church . . . He is still building and refining it. And if God has not abandoned it, how can we?" John Stott

"The church of Jesus Christ is the most important institution in the world. The assembly of the redeemed, the company of the saints, the children of God are more significant in world history than any other group, organization, or nation. The United States of America compares to the church of Jesus Christ like a speck of dust compares to the sun." John Piper