



**Why I love the Church**

**Some people say ... "I love the Lord. I just don't love the church."**

**Q. Is there something wrong with this statement?**

## **Ephesians 5:22-30**

**“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body.”**

## **In Ephesians 5:22-30, we learn that,**

- Christ is the head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23)
- The church is the body of – Christ (Ephesians 5:23).
- Christ is the Savior of the Church (Ephesians 5:23)
- Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).
- Christ nourishes and cherishes the church (Ephesians 5:29).

## **1 John 5:1**

**“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.”**

## **Hebrews 6:10**

**“For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.”**

## **Ephesians 5:25**

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

## **Acts 20:28**

**“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”**

At judgment the followers of Christ are shocked when Jesus identified things that they did for him.

## **Matthew 25:34-36**

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

## **Jesus explained it this way,**

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

(25:40)

## **Matthew 16:18**

Jesus said: “I will build my church”.

## **Acts 2:47**

“The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

## **I Corinthians 3:6**

“I planted, Apollos watered but God was causing the growth.”



## **I Corinthians 12:12-13 (NLT)**

**“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.”**

## **I Corinthians 12:18**

**“God has placed the members each one of them in the body just as He desired”.**

## **I Corinthians 12:24-25**

**“God has composed the body that there should be no division but that the members should have the same care for one another.”**

## **I Corinthians 12:27**

**“You are Christ’s body and individually members of it.”**

## **I Corinthians 3:16-17**

“Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

## **Ephesians 2:21-22**

“We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

## **I Timothy 3:15**

“...if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”

- In a time when Church leaders are often confused as to how they should “do Church,” there is a great need to return to the basics! Should we be traditional, contemporary, seeker sensitive, emergent, missional, etc...?
- Before answering any of these questions, we need to remind ourselves of the basic New Testament teaching about the Church.
- Sadly, one cannot assume that a Bible college or Seminary graduate has a strong understanding of the basics about the Church and most Church leadership teams need a time for review.

# **Five key words from Jesus Christ**

## **Matthew 16:18**

- 1. I**
- 2. will**
- 3. build**
- 4. my**
- 5. church**

# How does Christ build His Church?

## **I Corinthians 3:10**

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.”

## **Ephesians 4:11-16**

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

## **Seven key emphases at MBC**

- 1. Emphasis on qualified spiritual leadership: (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; Hebrews 13:17).**
- 2. Emphasis on unity: (Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:14-15; John 17:21).**
- 3. Emphasis on humility in service: (Luke 17:10; Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:3-5).**
- 4. Emphasis on every member ministry: (Ephesians 4:16; Hebrews 3:12-13).**
- 5. Emphasis on grace in debatable matters: (Romans 14:3).**
- 6. Emphasis on loving God by serving others: (Hebrews 6:10;10:23-25).**
- 7. Emphasis on evangelism, discipleship and salt and light influence: (Acts 1:8; Rom.1:16; Matt. 5:13-16; 28:19-20).**

# **Relationship covenant for the followers of Christ**

**“As we yield to the work of God’s Spirit in our lives, our words, attitudes and actions toward one another will be expressed lovingly, joyfully, peacefully, patiently, kindly, generously, faithfully, gently and with self-control  
(Galatians 5:22-23).**



Church - A short definition of a local Church can be found in Philippians 1:1, “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons”.

This verse reveals the three-fold organization of a local church: saints, overseers, and deacons.

The saints are in Christ (the universal church) and at Philippi (the local church).

The overseers are the elders which would include the pastor (Acts 20:17,28; I Timothy 5:17).

The deacons are also functioning leaders under the elders.