

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Explore Pt. 8 -
Understanding the Church

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

January 6, 2013

Scriptures:

1 Peter 2:4-12

1 Corinthians 12



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Kid's Corner

1. What do you think of when you hear that the church is a building?
2. What gifts do you want to serve God with in the church?
3. Why do you think Jesus want his bride to be pure?

CROSSWAY
CHURCH

Explore Part 8: Understanding the Church

Proposition: To know her is to love her, and to love her is to love him.

Notes: *Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named, not good.* – John Milton

1. The church is a Building
 - a. We are living stones, being built into a "spiritual house" - 1Pet. 2:4-10
 - b. The cross of Christ has become the grounds for our new identity.
 - c. The church is a building built by God to proclaim his excellences.
 - d. We are a spiritual house a publically identifiable building of persons, who have been saved by God's grace and called together to grow in faith and love for one another.
 - e. "The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history." – John Stott
2. The church is a Body
 - a. The church is a body designed by God and meant to function according to his purpose.
 - b. The church is where the Spirit's work is primarily visible. The Spirit works in our midst broadly, individually and for the common good.
 - c. The church is a body sovereignly arranged by God to function with each part knowing its place so that we glorify him together.
3. The church is a Bride
 - a. Jesus's love for the church marks us and creates our identity entitling us to the privilege of belonging to him. This identity requires reciprocity. We must know God and each other if we are to truly function as the Bride of Christ.
 - b. "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

Questions:

1. Does anyone truly know you? Where do you feel like you belong? How would you fill in the blank in the following statement, If I could only spend more time with _____ I would feel like I belonged.
2. Steve said that the church is the context where the Holy Spirit's work is primarily visible. List the areas where you see the H.S. at work in Crossway and in its people.
3. Steve made the statement, "The grace that saved me is the grace that transforms me from day to day." Does that adjust your thinking of the Christian life in any way? How does this gospel truth function in your daily life? Give examples.
4. Has the local church become "an exception" in your life? What are the things in your schedule that clamor for your time and attention?
5. Are you in danger of idolizing your children when it comes to participating in the life of the church? Does the church have its proper place in your family life? Where can you change?