

## Why I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ

(Part 9)

Ephesians 5:22-33

## Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ Built upon the right foundation.
- ▶ Recognizes Christ as its only head and source of authority.
- ▶ Organized according to the divine pattern.
- ▶ Accepts only the gospel of Christ as its creed.

## Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ Refuses all human names and recognizes only the divinely given name of Christ.
- ▶ No human requirements that must be met.
- ▶ In the church of Christ, I can worship the Lord, each Lord's day without the innovations of men and yet be able to do everything early Christians did in their public worship of God.
- ▶ Makes a consistent plea for unity.
- ▶ **Because of its destiny.**

## What Is Christ To The Church?

- "Christ is the head of the body"** Ephesians 5:23; cf. 1:22-23
- ▶ Do not be moved away. Colossians 2:6ff, 19
  - ▶ Christ provides nourishment to each member, so that each may grow up in him. Ephesians 4:12-16

## What Is Christ To The Church?

### "Christ is the Savior of the Body"

- ▶ Announced before his birth. Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:10-11
- ▶ When presented in Jerusalem. *"Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord, According to thy word, in peace; FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, and the glory of thy people Israel."* Luke 2:25-32
- ▶ Jesus said of himself, *"For the Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost."* Luke 19:10

## But what is the "body" of which Christ is Savior?

- ▶ He is the Savior of the body, THE CHURCH. Ephesians 5:22-23; Colossians 1:18
- ▶ That being the case: **What of those not in the body, the church? Are they saved?**
  - **Common view:** "Preach Christ, not the church."
  - **Can you preach Christ the head, but not the body?**
  - **Can you preach Christ the Savior, but not that which He saves?**

## How is Christ the Savior of the body, the church?

### Christ Loved the Church and Gave His Life For It. Ephesians 5:25

- ▶ Jesus taught His disciples that He would willingly make this sacrifice for them. John 10:7-18
- ▶ He taught them that for them to practice the *"new commandment"* which He was giving them, they too would be required to be willing to do the same for each other. John 13:34-35; cf. Romans 5:6-8

7

## How is Christ the Savior of the body, the church?

### Christ Loved the Church and Gave His Life For It. Ephesians 5:25

- ▶ What is the significance of Christ's death for the church?
  - Demonstrates His love for it.
  - Purchase price for the church. Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- ▶ What value do these things place upon the church? Equal in value to His blood! cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19
- ▶ **Can one be saved outside the church, or without being a member of it? Then saved without the blood of Christ!**

8

## How is Christ the Savior of the body, the church?

### Christ Died That He Might Sanctify and Cleanse the Church. Ephesians 5:26

- ▶ To *"sanctify"* the church is to separate or consecrate it, to set it apart to God for sacred use. It is to make it holy for service.
- ▶ To *"cleanse"* is to purify or make clean.
  - *"with the washing of water."* Baptism is involved. cf. Acts 22:16 and 1 Peter 3:21
  - *"with the word"* teaching is involved. Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:15-16; cf. 1 Peter 1:22. See John 15:3; 17:17.

9

## How is Christ the Savior of the body, the church?

### "That He Might Present it to Himself a Glorious Church" Ephesians 5:27; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:14

*"Without spot"*— Free from moral blemish.

*"Holy and without blemish."*— Pure. 1 John 3:3; Jude 24; Ephesians 1:4; cf. Colossians 1:21-23; 2:19

10

## Conclusion

### This is Christ's relation to the church:

- ▶ His supreme love for it, His relation to it as head, how He sanctifies and cleanses it, and how He finally will present it to himself.

### What is our love for Christ and for His church?

- ▶ That is reflected in how much we are willing to sacrifice for them.
- ▶ What is our behavior as citizens in relation to Christ and His kingdom? Philippians 1:27-28; 3:21
- ▶ Will we support of the work of the church in our efforts to help it grow and experience increase as the body of Christ? Ephesians 4:11-16

11