

Week of May 12, 2024

Series: What is the Church?

Sermon: The Church is... a Bride

Text: Revelation 21:9 and other texts

Sermon Outline:

The Church is...

1. The people of God.
 - Isaiah 54:5-6
 - Isaiah 62:5
 - Jeremiah 7:34
 - Luke 5:34-35
 - Revelation 18:23
 - Revelation 19:6-8
2. Chosen.
 - 1 Peter 2:9
3. Loved.
 - Ephesians 5:25-32
4. Being sanctified.
 - Ephesians 5:26-27
5. Devoted to Christ.
 - 2 Corinthians 11:1-3
6. A display of God's glory.
 - Ephesians 3:20-21
 - John 7:22
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
7. Eager to be with Christ.
 - Revelation 22:16-17

Discussions Questions:

1. People have different feelings about the church. Two categories that Chip mentioned on Sunday morning are:
 - For some people... 'Church' means relationships, and worship, and care, and you love it!
 - For others... it's painful, because you've had some experiences that have left some emotional and spiritual scars.

Which camp do you mostly fit? Discuss some positive and not-so positive interactions you have had with the local church.
2. Chip also said: "King's Cross Church does not always live up to God's plan for the church..."
 - We've let some people down because we didn't care for them well.
 - We've made some decisions we would change if we had a do over.
 - We've tried some things we thought were great ideas... and they flopped.
 - We've missed some opportunities that I wished we hadn't let go by.

...we're the subcontractors not the Architect, and sometimes we measure wrong, miss a project deadline, or fail an inspection."

Is this surprising to hear? Are you expecting King's Cross Church (or any church) to fail you? Why is it good to have this perspective?
3. Eph. 1:4 says that you were chosen before the world was created. God, who knows the past, present, and future, chose the church, and her members, knowing the sins they would commit. What does this say about God's love for you and your eternal security?
4. Eph. 5:25 says that Christ loves the church. So, if we love God, we must love the church. Discuss how indifference towards the church might indicate a lack of love for God.
5. The church is being sanctified to be more and more devoted to Christ and a display of God's glory. Why is it important to realize that that the church is not a perfect display of God's glory yet? Why is it also important that the individual members of the church work diligently to keep the church pure?