The Church as a Bride—Community | Ephesians 5:22-33

Pastor Bill Curtis | September 24, 2017

**Sermon Notes**

1. **Christ is the of the church.**
2. **The church is the of Christ.**

**2 responses of the church:**

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**Journey Group Questions**

1. Read Ephesians 5:22-33. The Lord Jesus Christ is in the process of sanctifying (to make holy) the church in order that she may be presented one day to Him “holy and without blemish” (vv. 26-27), much like a bride is prepared for her wedding day. This larger, collective work of sanctification is accomplished as Christ works very specifically in the lives of churches and very personally in the lives of the believers who make up those churches.
   1. Why do we often find it difficult to submit to the sanctifying work of Christ, especially in marriage?
   2. How do these same difficulties often surface in the lives of churches?
   3. In this text, we discover the principle of love and respect. With regard to churches, this refers to the perfect love of Christ and to the respect (reverence and submission) of believers. How does the love of Christ help us to overcome the difficulties above as we share life and share Christ at Cornerstone?
2. Christ’s desire is for husbands and wives to grow in intimacy, companionship, and community. Likewise, His desire is for the church to grow in the same way.
   1. What things work against this goal in marriage?
   2. How do these same difficulties hinder this sort of growth in churches?
   3. Read 2 Peter 1:3-8. What personal strategies does this text provide to help us surrender to Christ as He grows our church in these areas?
3. As we studied last week, the purpose of churches is to declare the glory of God to the world. How does the community experienced in churches help or hinder that purpose?