

Christian Doctrine The Church (Intro)

Thinking about “Church”

Ephesians 5:25 tells us that Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. This verse makes it clear how Christ views the church and how important the church is to Him. Believers have various ways of how they view the church. To some, church is a place where they can pray to God and worship. To others, it is a lighthouse of hope or a place where they can have an experience with God. Often times, our views of the church come short of understanding its true significance. In order to be sure the way we view the church is correct, we must look at the church through the eyes of Christ. It is important for us to grasp the true identity of what a church is, for then will we have clarity on its exact purpose and understand its true significance.

Understanding “Church”

In this study, we will look at several aspects of the church so that we can get a better understanding of why God has designed it. These aspects will include:

- Understanding what a church is. When we talk about the “church,” we must first understand exactly what it is we are referring to. This will help us understand our relation to the church.
- Understanding why the church is here. When we understand why the church is here, we will understand what the church should be doing. This will show us the purpose of the church’s existence.
- Understanding how the church should do what it has been called to do. When we understand the purpose of the church, we next need to know how God intends for that purpose to be accomplished. This will help us see what our role is in God’s plan for the church.

As we work through this study, not only should we get a better understanding of the church and how it should function, but we should also see how we fit into God’s plan for the church and how He desires to use us for His glory.

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