

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH.

7/6/2025 PM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: Matt. 16:13-19.

1. Jesus is the builder of the New Testament church.
 - 1) God's eternal plan for the church.
 - 2) The preparation for the church by John the baptizer.

B. Let us notice the importance of the church.

C. It is essential that we place the same importance on the church as we do on deity and the things divinely done.

II. THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO GOD THE FATHER.

A. The fact that God planned the church demonstrates its importance (Ephesians 3:8-11).

B. The price God paid for the church demonstrates its importance (Acts 20:28).

1. Values for things are set through the eyes of the beholder.
2. God established the value and importance of the church by the price he paid!
 - 1) Sometimes people pay too much for something.
 - 2) Some do make foolish purchases, wasting their money.
3. If someone says the church is not important, they are essentially saying the church is not worth what it cost the Lord.
 - 1) Did God make a foolish purchase?
 - 2) The Almighty, all-knowing, and all-wise God did not make a bad purchase!
4. Therefore, I know the church is important to God!!

III. THE CHURCH IS VALUABLE TO CHRIST.

A. Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25).

B. Try telling most parents that their children are not important, and you will get an argument.

1. Anything we love becomes important to us.
2. The church is important to Christ.

C. Christ died for the church.

1. We know men who have been willing to die for their country. Why? Because it is important to them.
2. The church is more important to Jesus than his own life was!!!

D. The church is important to Christ because He sanctified it.

1. Ephesians 5:26-27.
2. **Sanctified** = to separate from profane things and dedicate to God.

E. The church is important to Christ because the church is Christ's body.

1. Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4.
2. Ephesians 5:28-30.

IV. THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO TRUTH.

A. 1 Timothy 3:15.

1. The undergirding and support of the truth is the church.
2. The church is to uphold the truth and not compromise it.
3. The importance of this is seen in the collapse of bridges and interstate roads.

B. The truth suffers when it is not properly undergirded and supported by every member church.

V. THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO SALVATION.

- A. The saved are added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47).**
- B. Jesus is the savior of the body.**
 - 1. **Ephesians 5:23-24.**
 - 2. The body is the church.
 - 1) **Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23.**
 - 2) **Colossians 1:18, 24.**
- C. Salvation comes when one obeys the gospel.**
 - 1. This requires baptism (**Mark 16:15-16; Romans 6:1-6**).
 - 2. Baptism puts one in the church (**Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:13**).

VI. CONCLUSION:

- A. Since the church is important to God, to His Son, to the truth, and to our salvation, what should be our attitude toward the church?**
 - 1. Is it indifference, take it or leave it attitude?
 - 2. Is it a nuisance or troublesome?
 - 3. Is it something we would be better off without?
- B. We should view the church as important and essential to our souls' well-being.**
 - 1. Do we live like the church is important to us?
 - 2. Do we tell others about the Lord's church and invite them to our worship services?
- C. **Matthew 6:33** (substitute church for kingdom).**