

BBC - 9/14/25 Home Bible Study Outline - “A Glorious Church” - Ephesians 5:27

When writing to the Ephesians, where Paul spent a lot of time discipling the believers there, he teaches on how the marital relationship is a reflection of the union between Christ and the Church. In 5:25-29 Paul declares that Christ gave himself for the Church, He then sanctifies and cleanses it, and he will present it to Himself, a “**Glorious Church**,” without *spot* or *wrinkle*, *holy*, without *blemish*! In this manner is how men ought to love their wives. But our topic of focus this week is this “*glorious church*” (*God’s redeemed peoples, not the buildings*), made glorious, by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
Discussion: How can a man give, sanctify, so to present himself a glorious-unblemished wife?

The Glorious Church reflects God the FATHER’s manifold wisdom!

Eph. 3:10 – *To the intent that now unto the principalities & powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.* – One day, God will put His redeemed & glorified Church on display!

- 4:10 - After His redemption victory, God the Father caused Christ to ascend far above all heavens!
- 1:21 - He raised and set Christ at His right-hand, far above all principality, power, might, dominion!
- 2:7 - That in the ages to come He might show His amazing grace & kindness through Christ!

The Church is Glorious because God, of infinite wisdom, set the redemption plan in motion before the foundations of the world were laid – to reconcile lost sinful-man to Himself who is absolutely holy.

Discussion: Can we see how God’s wisdom enabled the impossible to occur through Christ?

The Glorious Church is strengthened by His SPIRIT!

Eph. 3:16 - *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.* – After God redeems His Church through Christ, he strengthens & empowers it!

- Romans 8:11 - The Father put the redemption plan in place, Jesus personally & successfully carried out the redemptive plan, and the Spirit applies & activates the plan’s benefits to us who believe! It is the Holy Spirit who quickens re-birth in us, then dwells in us, so that at Christ’s return, raises us!
- Acts 1:8 - After salvation, we’re not left idle & comfortless on the earth to await Christ’s return for us. The Holy Spirit is in us, but He also moves upon us, to empower us to be fruitful witnesses here!
- 2 Timothy 3:5 - No Christian should grieve the Holy Spirit by denying (*rejecting*) His available power.

The Holy Spirit is the present companion with us during the Church Age – it is He who magnifies Christ in & through us, strengthening us to serve Him effectively, gifting us with powerful enablements!

Discussion: If you’ve been joining us on Wednesday nights, what are the “Gifts of the Spirit”?

The Glorious Church’s first task, obligation, and privilege, is to glorify God by JESUS CHRIST!

Eph. 3:21 - *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

The Westminster Catechism’s 1st statement: “*The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever!*”

Church’s 4-Fold Mission (*in order*) is: **1)** Glorify God; **2)** Edify believers; **3)** Save the lost; **4)** Be salt & light on the earth. – Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ is the center of our Faith by which we glorify God!

- Eph. 1:12-13 - The Church (*that responded to the Gospel, trusted in Christ, & was sealed by the Holy Spirit*), should exist to the praise of God’s glory! The Church cannot be glorious apart from Jesus Christ!
- Rom 11:36 - *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

The central theme of both the Old & New Testaments is the Messiah, our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. We are the ‘Glorious Church’ only because Jesus Christ, who purchased us w/His blood, is glorious!

Discussion: Is our personal Christianity & Church-life orderly in our priorities before God?

What then does God expect from His “GLORIOUS CHURCH”?

Paul provided answers of that to the Ephesians, and he did so by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

- 5:14 - be followers of God (*the Father*), and (6:11) put on the whole armor of God.
- 4:24 - put on the new man (*in Christ* - 2 Corinthians 5:17), and (5:14) awake from spiritual slumber!
- 4:30 - grieve not the Holy Spirit, and (6:18) pray always in the Spirit!

Discussion: Have we met, & are we meeting God’s expectations of His ‘Glorious Church’?