



Community Group Study: What is the Church?

The Dearest Place on Earth to Us - Part 1 | Ephesians 5:25-27 | week of January 28

GETTING STARTED

- What has been your experience with the church at its best? At its worst?

Read Ephesians 5:25-27.

DISCUSS & APPLY

- According to these verses, what motivated Christ to give himself up for the church?

- How does the unconditional nature of Christ's love shape the way we love others?

- How does the unconditional nature of Christ's love explain the problems/messes that typically emerge in the church?

- What are some concrete steps that you can take to pursue a culture of love and grace within our church?

- What was Christ's goal for the church when he died in her place?
- How should Christ's commitment to the church's holiness produce a culture of personal holiness in the church?
- How would you know, from your own life, if (or if not) you were growing in personal holiness? What are the typical marks of such a pursuit?
- How can your group help you in your pursuit of personal holiness?
- As individuals and within your group, how can you devote yourselves more fully to "the washing of water with the word"?

NEXT STEPS

- Write a prayer asking God to increase your love for and devotion to his Church.
- Memorize Ephesians 5:31-32.