

Series: The Wealth of Christ and the Walk of the Christian

# THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

EPHESIANS 2:18-22

Text: Ephesians 2:19

## ***Ephesians 2:19***

<sup>19</sup> *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of **the household of God**;*

Introduction:

The church is referred to as: A chosen bride, a cherished bride, and there is a chastening of the bride Christ said He would build—“upon this rock.”

## ***Matthew 16:15-18***

<sup>15</sup> *He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?* <sup>16</sup> *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.* <sup>17</sup> *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.* <sup>18</sup> *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

The Bible gives many different names for the church: The Assembly, The Body of Christ, The Flock, The Pillar and Ground of Truth.

Notice with me this evening as we consider “The Household of God.”

What is the measure of a strong church?

Some might consider it on the basis of:

- The building or grounds
- The number of programs, choir, classes,
- How smoothly it runs as an organization, with its committees, departments, etc.

But a congregation can have all these things and still be dead!

## **1. FUNCTIONS LIKE A BODY**

### ***1 Corinthians 12:27***

*<sup>27</sup> Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

As the body has many members with differing function so does the church.

### **Romans 12:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: <sup>5</sup> So we, *being*

many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Note:

Growth occurs when “every part or member does its share.”

***Ephesians 4:15-16***

*<sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: <sup>16</sup> From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

We understand that a chain is as strong as its weakest link.

So a body's strength is affected by weak and inactive members!

Injury or physical handicaps limit the ability of the body to perform.

Strong members may try to help out, but then that limits what other work they would normally do.  
How each of us functions as a member of the body affects the strength of this congregation!

A Strong Church Is One the Functions Like a Family But Also:

## **2. LOVES LIKE A FAMILY**

The church is the household of God.

### ***Ephesians 2:19***

*<sup>19</sup> Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

### ***1 Timothy 3:15***

*<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

A Strong Family Is One Where There Is:

- Concern For One Another
- Care For Each Other
- Love For One Another

### ***1 Thessalonians 4:9-10***

*<sup>9</sup> But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. <sup>10</sup> And indeed ye do it toward all the*

*brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;*

## **2 Thessalonians 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;*

To Develop A Sense of Family Requires:

- A willingness to get to know one another

A Strong Church Will Be One The Function Likes a Body, and Love Like a Family but also:

## **3. PRAISES LIKE A TEMPLE**

Temples Were Built to Glorify God To Which They Were Dedicated

Our purpose today is to praise and glorify God.

### **1 Peter 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: <sup>10</sup> Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God:

which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

How can we praise God?

- By lifting our VOICES in song and prayer

**Hebrews 13:15**

*<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

- By doing GOOD DEEDS

**Hebrews 13:16**

*<sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

- By offering OURSELVES as living sacrifices

**Romans 12:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

There is one more indicator of a strong church:

A strong church:

## **4. IS PURE AS A BRIDE**

### **Ephesians 5:25-29**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup> That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. <sup>29</sup> For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Close: