

# GOD'S WORD TO HIS CHURCH

Select Passages • August 19, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

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rethink  
**CHURCH**  
God's perspective

**Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)** <sup>25</sup>For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her...

**2 Timothy 2:19 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup>But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The LORD knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil."

**John 10:14-15 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup>"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, <sup>15</sup>just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

## How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

**Believe** that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

**Acknowledge** your sins and ask God to forgive you.

**Submit** yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

**Express** your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

[www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org)

*When you think of "Church,"  
what does that mean to you?*

### Six Biblical Principles:

1) The Church is the \_\_\_\_\_ who  
have chosen to follow Jesus Christ.

✓ See Ephesians 5:25

*It is always about PEOPLE from God's Perspective.*

2) There is both an \_\_\_\_\_  
perspective of the Church.

✓ See 2 Timothy 2:19 and John 10:14-15

• The Invisible Church refers to the way \_\_\_\_\_ sees it.

• The Visible Church refers to the way \_\_\_\_\_ see it.

3) The Church is both \_\_\_\_\_.

✓ See Romans 16:5, 1 Corinthians 16:19, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and Galatians for examples

"...I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." - The Apostles Creed



### Otterbein Church & Ministry Center

801 Park Street • Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, 17268 • Rev. Michael Newman, Senior Pastor  
*Helping People Look Biblically at the Real Issues of Life!*

CDs and DVDs of this message are available by contacting the church office at 717-762-7147 or [info@otterbeinchurch.org](mailto:info@otterbeinchurch.org) or online at [www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org)

**Ephesians 1:22-23 (NLT)** <sup>22</sup>God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. <sup>23</sup>And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

**Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)** <sup>15</sup>Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

**Ephesians 5:23-26 (NLT)** <sup>23</sup>For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup>As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

**John 15:1-5 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup>I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup>You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup>Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

*This week, in preparation for next Sunday's sermon, read 1 Corinthians 8*

**4) The Church \_\_\_\_\_ and He is the head and leader of the Church.**

- ✓ See Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:15, and Ephesians 5:23

***It is essential that we never forget that the Church is more about Jesus than it is about us.***

**5) Jesus wants to have a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with His Church.**

- ✓ See Ephesians 5:23-26 and John 15:1-5 as examples

Metaphors for the Church include:

- Family
- Bride of Christ (marriage)
- Branches connected to a Vine

***We need to do all we can to nurture our relationship with Jesus Christ as individuals and as a Church.***

**6) Jesus cares about what \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ✓ See Revelation 1-3 (especially chapters 2-3)

Church	Reference	Commendation	Rebuke	Action
Ephesus	2:1-7	Hard Work, endurance	They do not love as at first	Remember and repent
Smyrna	2:8-11	Suffered persecution, poverty	None	Don't fear; be faithful
Pergamum	2:12-17	Remained Loyal	Tolerate Compromise	Repent
Thyatira	2:18-29	Love, Faith, Service, Endurance	Tolerate Immorality	Repent
Sardis	3:1-6	Effective	Superficial	Wake up; Repent
Philadelphia	3:7-13	Faithful	None	Hold on
Laodicea	3:14-22	None	Lukewarm	Be diligent and repent

- The chart above is taken from The Life Application Bible (NLT) published by Tyndale

