



**The Church Is Precious**

Blood Purchased Reconciliation. Ephesians 2:13-16

- ❖ Man needs reconciliation. cf. Isaiah 59:1-2
  - Man must be reconciled to be saved. cf. Romans 5:10
  - Reconciliation commanded. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- ❖ As the body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and reconciliation is in the body, then reconciliation is possible **ONLY** in the church.
- For those **NOT** in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

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Blood Purchased Sanctification. Ephesians 5:25-26

- ❖ Man needs sanctification. Romans 6:19-22
  - Definition: "To purify by expiation, free from the guilt of sin" 1 Corinthians 6:11 (Thayer)
- ❖ Sanctified by "*washing of water with the word.*" Ephesians 5:26
  - Saul of Tarsus. Acts 22:16; 9:18
  - Baptism into his death. Romans 6:3-4
- For those **NOT** in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

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The Church Is The Body Of The Saved. Acts 2:47

- ❖ Those who are purchased by blood. Acts 20:28
  - The Redeemed. 1 Peter 1:18-19
  - The Justified. Romans 3:20-26
  - The Reconciled. Ephesians 2:13-16
  - The Sanctified. Ephesians 5:25-26
- For those **NOT** in the church, Christ shed His blood in vain!

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The precious church will be presented a "*glorious*" church. Ephesians 5:26-27

- ❖ "Metaphorically, a glorious Church, signifying the Church adorned in pure and splendid raiment as a bride (Eph 5:27)" (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
- ❖ "Figuratively equivalent to free from sin, (Eph 5:27)." (Thayer)
- Those **NOT** in the church, are **NOT** so honored. Christ shed His blood in vain!

**Local Church: Precious**

- ❖ We strive together. Philippians 1:27
- ❖ We rejoice and grieve together. Romans 12:15
- ❖ We suffer and honor together. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
- ❖ We edify and correct one another. Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5:1
- ❖ Let us be thankful. Romans 1:8; etc.

## Conclusion

❖ The Lord's church is "precious." Acts 20:28

❖ We must let the church be distinct as the church, so adorned as to glorify the head – even Christ.

- God gave His Son for it.
- The Lord of glory died for it.
- We must not bring its lofty mission down to serve the outward man, but rather we must keep it pure to serve the interest of heaven.
- For the unfaithful, Christ died in vain.

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