

# CHURCH

## A Community of Love

**Why Church?** *God established the Church! Why? Why not just take His people home?*

**Ephesians 4:1-16** A Most Attractive Vision for the Church

<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love (Love vv. 1-3), we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ (Christ v. 13),<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together (Unity vv. 3-5; 13) by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly (Gifts vv. 7-11), makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love (Growth v. 11).

*The church exists to be a community that **experiences** (vv.3,16) and **expresses** (v.15) God's love!*

**LOVE-** How should we treat one another in the church?

To live worthy of our calling is to live a life of relational love. Consider this appeal in verses 1-3.

**Every Biblical mandate for the Church is a function of love.**

- Evangelism- Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8
- Edification- Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Hebrews 10:24-25
- Worship- 1 Peter 2:9
- Holiness- Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7-9
- Social Concern- Matthew 25:31-46; James 1:27; 1 John 4:20-21

**Every Biblical metaphors for the Church is an illustration of love.**

- The Body of Christ- Ephesians 4:15-16; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:14-27
- The Temple of the God- Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Peter 2:5-9; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- The Bride of Christ- Ephesians 5:25-31
- Household of God- Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Timothy 3:14-15

***The church experiences and expresses love in Christ, in unity, in gifts and in growth!***

**CHRIST-** Christ initiates love. He is the central and ultimate experience of love.

To what end does the church equip, serve, build, and grow? (vv. 11-13, 15)

**UNITY-** What love experiences flow out of unity? (vv. 13-15)

How does unity in the church express God's love to the world? (John 17:20-24)

**GIFTS-** Where do the gifts of the church come from? How many receive them? (vv. 7-11)

What is the purpose of the gifts? (vv. 11-13, 16; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:8-11)

**GROWTH-** Love is the environment in which the church body is built! (v.16)

Who causes the body to grow? (v.16) What is our role in the building up of the body? (vv.12,16)