

Message Notes

"What's the purpose of church anyway?"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – "Tell me a story!"

Metaphors for church

A new series: What was Jesus thinking when he made the church his bride?

This week - What's the point of church?
Ephesians 3:10-11

The Context of Ephesians 3:10

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 2:1-14

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 6:10-13

Now, on to Ephesians 3:1-21

A short meditation on Ephesians 3:10-11

His intent was that now,

THROUGH THE CHURCH

the manifold wisdom of God

should be made known

to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms

according to his eternal purpose

which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord

Application – *What's the point of being part of the church for you?
What's the benefits?*

Ephesians 3:1-21

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – ²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. ⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. ¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

Hope's Story





Biblical Metaphors of the church

The body	Col. 1:18	One body	1 Cor. 12:18–24
Body of Christ	Eph. 4:12	The Church	Eph. 3:21
Church of the first-born	Heb. 12:23	Church of God	1 Cor. 1:2
Church of the Living God	1 Tim. 3:15	Churches of Christ	Rom. 16:16
Church of the Gentiles	Rom. 16:4	City of God	Heb. 12:22
Flock	Acts 20:28	Flock of God	1 Pet. 5:2
God's building	1 Cor. 3:9	God's field	1 Cor. 3:9
Habitation of God	Eph. 2:22	Household of God	Eph. 2:19
Israel of God	Gal. 6:16	Jerusalem	Gal. 4:24–26
Kingdom	Heb. 12:28	Kingdom of the Son of His love	Col 1:13
Lamb's wife	Rev. 19:7	Mt. Zion	Heb. 12:22
People of God	1 Pet. 2:10	Spiritual house	1 Pet. 2:5
Temple of God	1 Cor. 3:16		

A very stunning metaphor...

A very stunning metaphor...

Isaiah 54:2

For your Maker is your husband —
the LORD Almighty is his name —
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth.

A very stunning metaphor...



A very stunning metaphor...



John 3:29-30

²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.

A very stunning metaphor...

2 Corinthians 11:2

²I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy.

I promised you to one husband, to Christ,
so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

A very stunning metaphor...

Revelation 21:2-4, 9-10

²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

A very stunning metaphor...

Revelation 21:2-4, 9-10

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, holding a bouquet. She is positioned in front of a large, arched opening in a stone wall, which appears to be part of a ruined church. The architecture features Gothic-style arches and stone masonry. The ground is paved, and the background shows some trees and a hillside. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking
by making the church his bride?

A FOUR WEEK MESSAGE SERIES ON THE CHURCH

January 25th - February 15th, 2009

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What's the point of church?



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Ephesians 3:10-11

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Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

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Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 1:3-14

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Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 1:3-14

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 2:1-13

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 2:1-13

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 2:1-13

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 2:1-13

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men) — ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 5:22-33

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Ephesians 5:22-33

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 5:22-33

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 5:22-33

³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 6:10-13

Understanding the context of Eph 3:10

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

What's the point of church?

Ephesians 3:1-21

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⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

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²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

What's the point of church?

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To be a vehicle for God to show
his glory to the universe!

Application questions:

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Do you desire to allow God to use you for His glory as an individual? As a church?

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Do you desire to allow God to use you for His glory as an individual? As a church?

Do you think often of the benefits of being the bride of Jesus? What difference would that make in your life?