

Jesus and the Church Cleansing Through Intimacy with Jesus

Overview: The cleansing and sanctifying of the church which results in the glorious church is facilitated by understanding the depth of intimacy of our relationship with Jesus. Through the intimacy of our relationship with Jesus He guides us into the fulness of our salvation.

A. The Mystery of Unity with Jesus.

1. The great mystery.

Eph 5:30-32 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

2. One spirit with the Lord.

1Co 6:16-17 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

3. The spirit of man regenerated and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5-6 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

4. Strengthened with might by his Spirit.

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

B. The Goal of Intimacy.

1. That he might present to himself...

Eph 5:27 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.

2. The goal of the instruction of the Word.

1Ti 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

3. And we shall be His sons and He will be our God.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

4. Present every man perfect/complete in Christ.
Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
5. Christ formed in you.
Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

C. The Foundation of Intimacy.

The foundation of intimacy is trust. When we understand all that Jesus has done for us and the depth of His love for us it is then natural for us to submit ourselves to Him and trust Him as He is bringing us to perfection.

1. The Head of the Church
Eph 5:23 ... as Christ is the head of the church:
Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.
Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
2. Savior of the body.
Eph 5:23 ... and he is the saviour of the body.
2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:
1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.
3. The Church's response is submission to Him.
Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ...
Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
4. Loves the Church.
Eph 5:25 ... even as Christ also loved the church.
Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
Eph 3:17-19 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

5. Gave himself for the Church.

Eph 5:25 ...and gave himself for it;

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

D. The Process of Cleansing through Intimacy.

The details of the process of cleansing as we identify sins and iniquities and the demons, devils and evil spirits behind them, and then work with the Holy Spirit to remove them from our lives, is enhanced as we recognize the love and care of Jesus through the process.

1. That he might sanctify and cleanse the church.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

2. Loves the body as himself.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

3. Nourishes the body.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth ... it, even as the Lord the church:

4. Cherishes the body.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but ... cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

5. We are members of His body.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.