

How Can We Grow in Our Love for the Church?

Sermon - January 10, 2021

Pastor

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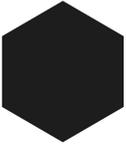
Text

1 Peter 2:9-10

Discussion Questions

1. When you think of the word, “church,” what comes to mind? What in your past experiences has helped you form this definition?
2. We grow in love for the church when we remember that the church is precious to God. Who are some of the people in your life that you consider precious? How do you show that you love those people? How does God do these same things for you?
3. We grow in love for the church when we remember that it has the potential to display His love to the world. Choose one or two of the bullet points below (from Ephesians 4 and 5), and share how another believer or group of believers has shown this love to you and others this year. How did their display of God’s love increase your love for God and His church?
 - a. We are humble with others.
 - b. We are gentle with one another.
 - c. We are patient.
 - d. We bear with one another in love.
 - e. We make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with people who we disagree with but are united to under the blood of Christ.





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4. We grow in love for the church when we remember that it has access to God's supernatural power. Think back through the last year; how have you seen the supernatural power of God push back darkness, reach the nations, be part of Christ's perfecting work in believers, or help believers endure? How did seeing these displays of power impact your faith?
 5. What might be keeping you from fully loving the church the way God has called us to in Scripture? (Think through people, systems, experiences, etc). What is one step you can take today to begin working through that barrier, so that you can grow in love for God's precious church?

Prayer

God, your church is a gift to us, but it is also a source of pain and grief. We are imperfect people who love one another imperfectly. But through Your perfect love, You show us a better way. Thank you for giving us Your Holy Spirit, so that we can grow in love for one another. Thank you that Your Holy Spirit helps us acknowledge when we've hurt others and gives us the power to work to heal those relationships. Please make us a church that is built upon Your Rock and that never strays away from You and Your life-changing love. Amen.