



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Presenting the Glorious Church

**SPEAKER** Elder Lok Vi Ming

**THEME** The Glorious Church

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

With the fallen nature of humans, it is impossible to form a perfect church in this life. Nonetheless, Christ tells us that He is waiting to present to Himself the Glorious Church without spot or wrinkle. He explains this mystery and compares this mystery to that of the relationship between a husband and wife. In his sermon, Elder Lok unpacks Ephesians 5:24-27 to help us learn to invest our time and effort into the growth of the Church and to build it into the Glorious Church as members of the body of Christ.

## PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

### 1. Christ loved the Church (v25)

The Church comprises of sinners who are redeemed by grace, a group of unlovely and imperfect people. God has a special love for His Church - those that He gave His life for, trusted Him as their Lord and Saviour and would live their lives according to His Word. However, post COVID-19, the building of the Glorious Church has been impacted negatively by the unwillingness to gather. This unwillingness to gather goes against what the church service is supposed to be – a congregation of the children of God worshipping together.

The quality of Christ's love is a special love. Christ compares this love to the love that a husband has for his wife, and is reciprocated by the wife. It is a love that should be exclusive and set apart.

The essence of God's love and marriage is covenantal and not rights based. When Christ established the covenant in building the Church, He also staked His life upon it. Faithfulness must be at the cornerstone of both relationships, as it helps us build the marriage and Glorious Church.

### 2. He gave Himself up for Her (v25)

The Bible tells us of Christ coming down to live as a human, eventually sacrificing Himself for our sins so that He might cleanse the Church by paying the penalty for our sins and giving us the positional cure so that we would not be under the wages of sin. He also gave us the Holy Spirit so that we might be sanctified and continually transformed by the renewal of our minds

instead of conforming to the world in order that we may present our bodies as spiritual sacrifices fully acceptable to Him.

### **3. That He might sanctify the Church (v26)**

When we hear the Word of God, we sometimes think that the amount we retain is the most important. However, God looks at our hearts, how clean they are, and how they have been washed by the preciousness of His Word. The application of the Word of God washes and sanctifies our lives (John 15:3). God's Word of grace builds us up and gives us an inheritance to know the person of Christ and what we have through Him (Acts 20:32). His Word is truth, which we are sanctified by (John 17:17). In order to build a Glorious Church and do what God wants us to do, we should let God's Word come continually into our lives so that we may be washed by Him.

### **4. To be the Glorious Church without spot or wrinkle (v27)**

Sanctification is a process where there is an order of things - Christ is the head of the Church like the husband is the head of the relationship and the Church subjects itself to the Lordship of Christ like the wife submits herself in love to the husband who loves her with his life. We learn to set ourselves apart from the world for Him. We can try to clean our lives, but to smooth out a wrinkle requires us to iron it out by not allowing our spiritual state to grow stale and instead seek constant refreshing and anointing from God.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Glorious Church is one that glorifies God and points back to God with everything that it does (Mathew 5:16). As ministers and stewards of the grace of God, we should minister to one another with the ability that God supplies so that in all things God will be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:7-11). If we follow the model of Christian marriage and home, there will be peace and righteousness which will help us to build the Glorious Church for Christ's second coming.

# QUESTIONS

1. The Church comprises us, as God's chosen ones, whom without God's grace would be otherwise considered as imperfect and unlovely. His Word calls for us to gather as a community to praise and worship Him as part of building the glorious church. How have you been keeping to this command?

2. As believers, most of us are familiar with the Word as we absorb it during Quiet Time, Bible Study and sermons. What are ways that we can apply it to our lives, so that it can constantly wash and sanctify our lives?

3. 'As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.' (1 Peter 4:10). What gifts has God blessed you with, and how can you, in turn, use them to glorify Him and help others?