

Foundations

Week Five: My Church, My Family, My Mission

5-Day Devotional - 10.19.25

Day 1

The Bride Christ Died For

Reading: Ephesians 5:25-27

Devotional:

Jesus didn't die for a building, a logo, or a service schedule. He died for you. He died for His bride—the church, which is His people. This is a staggering truth that should reshape how we view our relationship with the local church.

When we think of the church as something we attend rather than someone we are, we miss the heart of what Christ accomplished on the cross. He didn't just save individuals to live isolated spiritual lives. He created a family, a body, a bride that He loves with sacrificial, covenant love.

Consider how Christ loves His bride: He gave Himself up completely. He cleanses her. He presents her as radiant, holy, and blameless. This is the value He places on the church. When we treat church as optional, as something that fits around our preferences and schedules, we dishonor what Christ died to create.

Reflection Questions:

- Do I view the church as something I attend or as a family I belong to?
- How does knowing Christ died specifically for His bride change my commitment level?
- What would it look like to honor the bride of Christ with the same sacrificial love Jesus showed?

Practical Application:

This week, shift your language from "I attend church" to "I am the church. Write down three specific ways you can honor Christ's bride through your time, talents, or treasure. Don't just think about what the church can give you—ask what you can contribute to build up the body Christ loves.

Day 2

Every Part Has Purpose

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Devotional:

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Not some of you. Not the talented ones. Not just the leaders. Each. One. Of. You.

Think about a baseball team taking the field with only six players instead of nine. They might have the best pitcher in the league, but they're going to struggle because the body is incomplete. The church functions the same way. When parts of the body don't show up, don't serve, don't engage, the whole body struggles to fulfill its mission.

You are not an optional accessory to the body of Christ. You are a necessary part. Your gifts, your presence, your participation matter more than you realize. The lie we often believe is that we're not important enough, not talented enough, not spiritual enough to make a difference. But Paul makes it clear: there are no unnecessary parts in the body of Christ.

Growth happens when every part does its work. When one part sits still while the rest moves forward, the whole body is hindered. Your participation—or lack of it—affects everyone around you.

Reflection Questions:

- What gifts has God given me that I'm not currently using to serve His bride?
- Am I sitting on the bench watching God move, or am I getting in the game?
- Who in my church family might need encouragement to discover their purpose in the body?

Practical Application:

Identify one area where you've been a spectator rather than a participant. Maybe it's serving in children's ministry, joining a greeting team, or participating in a small group. This week, take one concrete step toward active involvement. Don't wait to feel qualified—availability is more important than ability.

Day 3

Growth Requires Sacrifice

Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional:

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Kingdom growth doesn't happen through comfort—it happens through commitment.

The early church in Acts faced constant change. They grew, adapted, gave, and multiplied. But here's the key: they valued the mission more than their own preferences. They prioritized the kingdom over their comfort zones. And because of their commitment and sacrifice, "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Sacrifice means saying yes to serving even when it's inconvenient. It means getting up early on Sunday mornings. It means rearranging your schedule around church rather than fitting church into your schedule. It means giving generously even when it stretches your budget. It means serving joyfully even when you're tired.

If someone told you that following Jesus would be easy, they lied. Following Christ is wonderful, incredible, and eternally rewarding—but it's not easy. Jesus never promised comfort; He promised His presence. He never guaranteed convenience; He commanded commitment.

Reflection Questions:

- What comforts am I unwilling to sacrifice for the sake of the kingdom?
- How does my schedule reflect my priorities? Does church dictate my schedule, or does my schedule dictate church?
- What would change in my life if I truly valued the mission more than my preferences?

Practical Application:

Examine your calendar for the next month. Identify one area where you've prioritized personal preference over kingdom commitment. Make a specific change this week—perhaps committing to serve in a ministry that requires sacrifice, or rearranging a recurring commitment that consistently conflicts with church involvement. Remember: we will do whatever it takes for one more soul to find Jesus.

Day 4

From Consumer to Contributor

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Devotional:

The church is not a product you consume; it's a family you contribute to. This single shift in perspective can revolutionize your spiritual life.

We live in a consumer culture where everything is about what we get. We evaluate churches like we evaluate restaurants: Does it meet my needs? Do I like the music? Is the teaching engaging? Are the programs convenient? While these aren't bad questions, they miss the fundamental purpose of the church.

The early church didn't gather to be entertained or served. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking bread, and to prayer. They shared everything they had. They met together daily. They gave to anyone who had need. And the result? "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Ownership means you don't just attend service—you help make it happen. You don't just consume ministry—you contribute to ministry. You don't just watch God move—you join Him in the movement. When ownership multiplies, the kingdom multiplies.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I primarily a consumer or a contributor in my church?
- What am I asking for from church versus what am I giving to church?
- How can I celebrate others' wins as if they were my own?

Practical Application:

This week, intentionally shift from asking "What do I get out of church?" to asking "How can I help build the church Jesus loves?" Identify three people in your church who are serving faithfully and encourage them specifically. Then ask yourself: "If everyone in this church served at my level of commitment, would the church thrive or struggle?" Let your honest answer guide your next steps toward greater ownership.

Day 5

We Don't Let Go

Reading: Galatians 6:1-10

Devotional:

It sounds super spiritual to say, "I don't need anybody but Jesus. I can worship in the deer stand." But it's a lie. In Genesis, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." We need each other.

The church says, "I'm not letting you go." When you're going through depression, the church holds you up. When you're battling illness, the church prays. When you're struggling with sin, the church holds you accountable. When you're facing hardship, the church stands beside you.

This is why the church is more important to you than you can imagine. You need this house more than it needs you. Not because the building is special, but because the people—the bride of Christ—are your family. They're the ones who won't give up on you when life gets hard.

A family grows not when we sit together, but when we work together. The intimacy and fellowship we long for don't come from keeping things small and comfortable. They come from laboring together for the kingdom, from serving side by side, from holding each other up through the battles.

If we'd kept our families small and comfortable, we'd have missed weddings, grandchildren, and the joy of watching our loved ones grow. If we keep our church families small and comfortable, we'll miss the incredible work God wants to do through us and the countless lives He wants to touch through our obedience.

Reflection Questions:

- Who in my church family is going through a difficult season right now? How can I tangibly show them the church won't let them go?
- Have I been trying to live the Christian life in isolation? What am I missing by not fully engaging with the body?
- What would it look like for me to work alongside my church family rather than just sit with them?

Practical Application:

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Doing nothing is saying no to God's call. This week, commit to action: reach out to someone in your church who is.