

Dig Deeper into Sermon #1 on the Church for individuals and groups...

Being the Church

The church is beautiful...


- a) a glorious beauty (Ps 45:11; Song of Songs 1:15)
- b) a reflected beauty (Rev 7:14; Gen 2:23; Rev 21:2)
- c) an unfinished beauty (Eph 5:25-27)

The church is a miracle...

- a) of reconciliation (Eph 2:11-18)
- b) of construction (Eph 2:19-22)

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☞ Have you come to the bridegroom?
☞ Are you taking your identity seriously?



As we start our new series on the church, here are some things to think and pray about...

1. Re-read the verses in brackets in the verses under “The church is beautiful” above. How do you feel about being the bride of Christ? What questions does it raise? What do you think we will lose if we only think of the church in terms of our activities?
2. Looking at Ephesians 2:11-22, what light does this passage shed on how we should see our identity as the church? What difference would it make if you came into church/lifegroup with these things at the front of your mind?
3. How would you approach a conversation with a friend who says...
 - a. “I don’t really do church, I have a direct relationship with Jesus, and you can get what you need from the internet these days”.
 - b. “I come to church when I can, but life is so busy these days”.
 - c. “I just feel I’m too much of a hypocrite to walk into to church”.
 - d. “I don’ talk to X (at church), they have hurt me too badly”.

Close by spending some time praying about our studies that they would be life changing for us as individuals and as a body.

Resources mentioned in talk 1...

- Dustin Benge, “[The Loveliest Place](http://www.crossway.org/articles/full-audiobook-why-should-we-love-the-local-church-by-dustin-benge/)” (Crossway). See also the free shortened audiobook of this at www.crossway.org/articles/full-audiobook-why-should-we-love-the-local-church-by-dustin-benge/.
- Christopher Ash, “[Remaking a broken World](#)” (Good Book Co).
- Francis Chan, “[Letters to the Church](#)” (David Cook).
- <https://www.disneyplus.com/en-gb/series/europe-from-above/5e3XczALaXJx>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teufelsberg>