

LEARNING TO LOVE THE CHURCH

June 21, 2020 Matthew 6:14-15, 7:1-5

“Here comes the bride...” The church is the bride of Christ. Do you love his bride with an unconditional love? Church is NOT about you. Amen? **How can you learn to love the church like Jesus does?**

1. Submit yourself completely to Jesus

- “Wives, submit yourself to your own husbands as you do the Lord.” Eph. 5:22, Eph. 5:32 The church is the bride or wife of Christ. SUBMIT!
- **Jesus is Lord and Judge.** James 4:11-12
- “Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged...” Matthew 7:1-2
- This does not mean that we do not need discernment or that we do not speak the truth in love. But God did not give you the gift of criticism.

2. See people like Jesus does

- Start with the great commandment: Love God and love your neighbor.
- The identifying mark of believers is loving one another. John 13:34-35

- Think about how much God loves you: how wide, long, high & deep it is. Ephesians 3:18
- Remember the call to love in I Corinthians 13!
- What are your motives for judging? Maybe your critical spirit is due to the fact that you have not forgiven. Matthew 6:14-15
- Maybe you struggle with the same thing. REPENT! Matthew 7:5
- What are three things about yourself that you want to improve with God's help?
- "It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer..."
- Close with the 5th pledge from "I Am a church Member," p. 64