

Study Notes: The Church - The Body & The Bride

Message Summary

God designed the church from the beginning to display His manifold wisdom to unseen heavenly rulers. Angels look to the church, marvelling that humanity was made in God's image and restored through the cross, uniting all people in Christ.

A healthy congregation actively mirrors the early church by devoting itself to Scripture, fellowship, prayer, and breaking bread. This shared commitment extends to profound generosity, seen practically in local initiatives like the Friday grocery distribution supporting households in need.

Believers are called to recognise their immense blessing and spiritual authority. By walking confidently in this favoured identity, Christians ensure the local congregation remains a vibrant, expanding environment where the gospel is spread and lives are continuously transformed.

Key Points

- **The church is a family.** Believers are citizens alongside God's people and should give special attention to helping fellow members of the household of faith.
- **Secondly, the church is the bride of Christ.** Believers are promised to one husband and are being prepared to be presented as a glorious, pure bride for a heavenly wedding feast.
- **Thirdly, the church is the body of Christ.** Just as a human body has many necessary parts, God places each reliable and faithful member in the church to uniquely help others grow.

Discussion Questions

1. The early church was committed to a life of prayer, a devotion we mirror corporately at gatherings like the 5:30 pm pre-service prayer meetings. How does praying alongside other believers impact your personal relationship with God?
2. Pastor Phil highlighted that reliable, faithful attendance is what leadership looks for when placing people in roles to build up the church. What does faithful commitment look like for you in your current season of life?
3. New believers are encouraged to access resources at gc.org.au/firststeps to connect into the life of the church. How can we as a group better support and encourage those who are just beginning their walk with Jesus?