

# The Rapture and Your Pastor

March 8, 2015 Sun AM

## IS THE LOCAL CHURCH DEAD?

*There has been a destructive misunderstanding of **WHY** the Church exists and **HOW** the Church functions, leading to the decline of the local church.*

## WHY DOES THE (LOCAL) CHURCH EXIST?

*The Church lives to grow and prepare herself in purity and holiness for the imminent return of her Lord and Husband Jesus Christ, not for any other earthly or worldly purpose.*

*The Church prepares herself by being in proper relationship - first with the Jesus the Head and then with the Body, the members in particular. How the Church has been distracted and derailed from the mission and the method!*

*If an individual member is not in proper relationship with the Head, Jesus Christ, and the other members, that member is not ready to meet the Lord face to face, neither individually in death nor corporately as the Church in rapture.*

### **Ephesians 5:24–27**

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.  
25 Husbands, love your wives, **EVEN AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH**, and gave himself for it;  
26 **THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE IT WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD**,  
27 **THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.**

## HOW DOES THE (LOCAL) CHURCH EXIST?

**The Kingdom of God, which includes the local church, functions by RELATIONSHIP.**

**The local church DOES NOT function by:**

- legislation
- human administration
- dictatorship or democracy
- business & marketing strategies
- “customer” experience or service strategies
- outreach campaigns
- social media, media ministry
- programs & activities

**THE STRONGER AND CLOSER THE RELATIONSHIPS, THE STRONGER AND HEALTHIER THE CHURCH.**

### 1 John 3:2–3

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 **AND EVERY MAN THAT HATH THIS HOPE IN HIM PURIFIETH HIMSELF, EVEN AS HE IS PURE.**

### Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 **IN WHOM ALL THE BUILDING FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER** *(to join closely together, to render closely jointed)* **GROWETH** *(to increase, become greater)* **UNTO AN HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD:**

22 **IN WHOM YE ALSO ARE BUILDED TOGETHER** *(to construct out of several to build up one whole)* **FOR AN HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT.**

### Colossians 2:18–19

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 **AND NOT HOLDING THE HEAD, FROM WHICH ALL THE BODY BY JOINTS** *(bond, connection, ligament)* **AND BANDS** *(that which binds together)* **HAVING NOURISHMENT MINISTERED** *(to supply, furnish, minister),* **AND KNIT TOGETHER** *(united in affection, to drive together),* **INCREASETH** *(to grow)* **WITH THE INCREASE** *(growth)* **OF GOD.**

### 1 Corinthians 12:12–21

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

21 **AND THE EYE CANNOT SAY UNTO THE HAND, I HAVE NO NEED OF THEE: NOR AGAIN THE HEAD TO THE FEET, I HAVE NO NEED OF YOU.**

## THE RELATIONSHIP OF PASTOR TO CONGREGATION

### John 17:6–12

6 I have manifested thy name unto **THE MEN WHICH THOU GAVEST ME** **OUT OF THE WORLD: THINE THEY WERE, AND THOU GAVEST THEM ME;** and they have kept thy word.

7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and **HAVE KNOWN SURELY THAT I CAME OUT FROM THEE,** and **THEY HAVE BELIEVED THAT THOU DIDST SEND ME.**

9 I pray for them: **I PRAY NOT FOR THE WORLD, BUT FOR THEM WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME; FOR THEY ARE THINE.**

10 And **ALL MINE ARE THINE, AND THINE ARE MINE;** and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those **WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, AS WE ARE.**

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: **THOSE THAT THOU GAVEST ME I HAVE KEPT, AND NONE OF THEM IS LOST,** but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

## 2 Corinthians 1:13–14

13 **FOR WE WRITE NONE OTHER THINGS UNTO YOU, THAN WHAT YE READ OR ACKNOWLEDGE (*epiginosko* - to recognize, perceive, understand); AND I TRUST YE SHALL ACKNOWLEDGE (*epiginosko*) EVEN TO THE END;**

14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, **THAT WE ARE YOUR REJOICING, EVEN AS YE ALSO ARE OURS IN THE DAY OF THE LORD JESUS.**

## 2 Corinthians 1:21–24

21 **NOW HE WHICH STABLISHETH (*establish, confirm, secure*) US WITH YOU IN CHRIST, AND HATH ANOINTED US, IS GOD;**

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.

24 **NOT FOR THAT WE HAVE DOMINION (*to be lord of, to rule, master over*) OVER YOUR FAITH, BUT ARE HELPERS (*sunergos* - fellow worker) OF YOUR JOY: FOR BY FAITH YE STAND.**

## 2 Corinthians 4:14

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus **SHALL RAISE UP US ALSO BY JESUS, AND SHALL PRESENT US WITH YOU.**

## 2 Corinthians 11:2

2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, **THAT I MAY PRESENT YOU AS A CHASTE VIRGIN TO CHRIST.**

## Colossians 1:28

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERY MAN PERFECT IN CHRIST JESUS:**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20

19 **FOR WHAT IS OUR HOPE, OR JOY, OR CROWN OF REJOICING? ARE NOT EVEN YE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AT HIS COMING?**

20 **FOR YE ARE OUR GLORY AND JOY.**

## 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves shew of us **WHAT MANNER OF ENTERING IN WE HAD UNTO YOU**, and **HOW YE TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD;**

10 And **TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN**, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, **THAT IT WAS NOT IN VAIN:**

2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

3 **FOR OUR EXHORTATION WAS NOT OF DECEIT** (*deluding, error*), **NOR OF UNCLEANNESS** (*impurity*), **NOR IN GUIL**  
(*to bait, craft*):

- *false teachers alter the Truth - **DECEIT***
- *because of selfish ambition - **UNCLEANNESS***
- *baiting those who hear them - **GUIL***

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-13**

4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, **EVEN SO WE SPEAK; NOT AS PLEASING MEN, BUT GOD, WHICH TRIETH OUR HEARTS.**

5 For **NEITHER AT ANY TIME USED WE FLATTERING WORDS** (*feeding the ego to make it difficult to disagree, contradict or resist*), as ye know, nor a **CLOKE OF COVETOUSNESS**; God is witness:

6 **NOR OF MEN SOUGHT WE GLORY** [*intentionally surrounding yourself with those who will agree or praise you even when you're wrong*], **NEITHER OF YOU, NOR YET OF OTHERS**, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

7 **BUT WE WERE GENTLE** (*mild, kind*) **AMONG YOU, EVEN AS A NURSE CHERISHETH** (*to warm, soften by heat, tenderly care, foster with tender care*) **HER CHILDREN:**

8 **SO BEING AFFECTIONATELY DESIROUS** (*desire earnestly, strong affection for, yearning after*) **OF YOU, WE WERE WILLING TO HAVE IMPARTED UNTO YOU, NOT THE GOSPEL OF GOD ONLY, BUT ALSO OUR OWN SOULS, BECAUSE YE WERE DEAR** (*beloved, dearly loved*) **UNTO US.**

9 For ye remember, brethren, **OUR LABOUR AND TRAVAIL: FOR LABOURING NIGHT AND DAY, BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT BE CHARGEABLE** (*to put a burden on, to weigh down, press heavily*) **UNTO ANY OF YOU, WE PREACHED UNTO YOU THE GOSPEL OF GOD.**

10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, **HOW HOLILY AND JUSTLY AND UNBLAMEABLY WE BEHAVED OURSELVES AMONG YOU** that believe:

11 As ye know **HOW WE EXHORTED** (*to call to, to call near, to encourage, to comfort, to urge, call to one's side*) **AND COMFORTED** (*to console, comfort, encourage, soothe*) **AND CHARGED** (*affirm as a witness, to bear witness, testify, have a good report, speak well of, commend*) **EVERY ONE OF YOU, AS A FATHER DOTH HIS CHILDREN,**

12 **THAT YE WOULD WALK WORTHY OF GOD,** who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **WHEN YE RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YE HEARD OF US, YE RECEIVED IT NOT AS THE WORD OF MEN, BUT AS IT IS IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH EFFECTUALLY WORKETH** (*to bring about, accomplish, to be at work*) **ALSO IN YOU THAT BELIEVE.**

**The relationship of a pastor to the congregation must have the three fundamental principles of shepherding:**

- *nurturing care - vs. 7-9*
- *holy example - vs. 10*
- *patient instruction - vs. 11*

**When the relationship of pastor to congregation has those three fundamental principles operating in pure motives, the Word of God will effectually work in the church community.**

- *speaking the full counsel of God's Word purely in the fear of God, not adding to nor taking from - vs. 3-4*
- *ministering for the eternal good of the people, never for selfish gratification or advantage - vs. 5-6*