

THE BRIDE

1. The Bible refers to the church as "*The Bride of Christ.*"
2. Jesus spoke often about weddings and marriage.
 - a) **Matthew 22:1-14** (Jesus told a parable of the Wedding Feast)
 - b) **Matthew 25:1-13** (Jesus told the parable of the 10 Virgins)
 - c) **Luke 14:7-11** (Jesus spoke another parable of a Wedding Feast)
 - d) **John 2:1-11** (Jesus performed his first miracle @ the wedding in Cana)
3. **Revelation 19:7**
4. **Ephesians 5:22ff**
 - a) First Paul's instruction *to the wife* - Church = Submission (surrender under authority)
 - b) Second Paul's instruction *to the husband* - Christ - (Love)
 - 1) "*Selflessly*" - Vs 25
 - 2) "*Sacrificially*" - Vs 25
 - 3) "*Sanctifyingly*" - Vs 26-27
 - 4) "*Satisfyingly*" - Vs 28-29
 - 5) "*Supremely*" - Vs 30-31
 - c) Conclusion: Vs 32-33
5. To arrive @ the fundamental reason the Church exists, you have to ask the "why?" question.
6. **1 Corinthians 10:31.**
7. **THE CHURCHES PRIMARY REASON FOR EXISTANCE IS TO GLORIFY GOD.**

I. AN ANALYSIS OF GLORY

1. **First** - it means the power of God's presence. Exodus 40:34
2. **Second** - it refers to the heavenly bodies - the stars and planets and shine in their glory.
3. But when referring to churches bottom line purpose - glory means to magnify, to elevate, to put on display.
 - a) **John 3:30**
 - b) **John 1:23-27**

4. **1 Corinthians 6:19**

a) "You are not your own" Why?

5. **1 Corinthians 6:20**

a) "For you are bought with a price"

b) "so glorify God in your body"

6. **Romans 15:5-7**

7. **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

8. **Matthew 5:14-16**

II. THE APPLICATION OF GLORY

A. "WHENS"

1. *When we embrace our REASON for existence we will come to the realization that glorifying God applies to every detail of living.*

2. *When I am unsure* - Will I wait for direction?

3. *When I make need to make a decision:* - Will I lean on His Word

a) *When seeking a job* - Will this glorify Christ?

b) *When buying a home* - Will this glorify Christ?

c) *When buying a car* - Will this glorify Christ?

d) *When I play sports* - Will this glorify Christ?

4. *When I am afflicted* - Will I glorify Christ?

5. *When I am making plans* - Will they glorify Christ?

6. *When I open my mouth* - Will I glorify Christ?

B. "INS" (Do I seek his glory in...)

1. In my public life - in my private life?

2. In my relationships?

3. In my work ethic?

4. In my family?

C. "IFS" (Will I glorify Christ if...)

1. If my spouse leaves me?
2. If the plans I have made fail?
3. If I lose my job?
4. If I don't get the promotion?
5. **NO MATTER WHAT** - The Theme of My Life - *To God Be the Glory!!!*

III. THE ACTION OF GLORY

A. BY INVITING GOD INTO EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE

1. It begins with a conscious deliberate intentional invitation.
2. Use post it notes:
 - a) On the refrigerator.
 - b) On your locker.
 - c) On your visor in the car.
 - d) On the inside of your door as you leave your house.
 - e) On the washer and dryer.
3. Glorifying Christ is to be a lifestyle.

B. BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT ANY OF THE GLORY THAT BELONGS TO GOD.

1. Our flesh is selfish and wants all the glory it can get.
2. Our flesh looks for opportunities to grab the glory that belongs to God.
3. Preachers can preach in the flesh.
4. Athletes can perform for themselves.

C. BY PRIORITIZING A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

1. Some parents are closer to their children than they are to God.
2. You can be more concerned about your child's future happiness than about their relationship with Christ.
3. But if our sincere desire is to glorify Christ then he must have preeminence!

CONCLUSION:

I. OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

A. LOVE GOD

1. Worship

- a) *John 3:30*
- b) *Psalm 96:1-6*

2. Discipleship

- a) *2 Peter 3:18*

B. LOVING EACH OTHER

1. Fellowship

- a) *John 13:34-35*

2. Service

- a) *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*
- b) *1 Peter 4:10*

C. LOVING THE WORLD TO CHRIST

1. Evangelism

- a) *Mathew 28:19-20*

2. Service

- a) *Matthew 5:13-16*
- b) *John 12:32*

II. OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. *"Our mission is to reach Bedford County with the gospel of Jesus Christ using every means possible."*

III. OUR VISION STATEMENT

1. BIG QUESTION: "What kind of church do we want to be?"

2. A CHURCH THAT PRODUCES FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST