

The Church In God's Plan



Speak, O Lord

Speak O Lord, and renew our minds,
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.

God's Plan for the Church

1. The church is the body of Christ on earth

(Ephesians 1:22–23; 4:4, 11–16; 5:23–33)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 1:22-23

²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as **head over all things to the church,** ²³ **which is his body,** the fullness of him who fills all in all.

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 4:15–16

¹⁵ ...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the **head**, into **Christ**,
¹⁶ from whom the whole **body**... builds itself up in love.”

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 5:23

...Christ is the head of the church, his body...

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 5:29–30

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,
³⁰ because we are members of his body.

God's Plan for the Church

2. The church is the dawn of the new creation

(Ephesians 2:13–18)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 2:13–15

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one...
¹⁵ **that he might create in himself one new man** in place of the two, so making peace..."

God's Plan for the Church

Colossians 1:12–13

[God the Father] has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 5:7–8

⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them;
⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now
you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

God's Plan for the Church

3. The church is the international family of God

(Ephesians 2:19)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 2:19

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are fellow citizens with the saints and
members of the household of God.

God's Plan for the Church

1 Timothy 3:3–4

⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

God's Plan for the Church

1 Timothy 5:1–2

¹ Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a **father**, younger men as **brothers**,
² older women as **mothers**, younger women as **sisters**, in all purity.

God's Plan for the Church

1 Timothy 3:14–15

¹⁴ ... I am writing these things to you so that...

¹⁵ you may know how one ought to behave in the **household of God, which is the church of the living God**, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

God's Plan for the Church

4. The church is the temple of the living God

(Ephesians 2:19–22)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 2:19–22

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the **cornerstone**, ²¹ in whom the **whole structure**, being **joined together**, grows into a **holy temple** in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being **built together** into a **dwelling place** for God by the Spirit.”

God's Plan for the Church

5. The church is an ancient mystery now revealed

(Ephesians 3:1–10)

God's Plan for the Church

1 Peter 1:10–12

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 3:6

This **mystery** is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

God's Plan for the Church

6. The church is the brilliant wisdom of God

(Ephesians 3:8–10)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 3:8–10

⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ **so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.**

God's Plan for the Church

7. The church is the eternal plan of God

(Ephesians 3:11)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 3:11

This was according to the **eternal purpose** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's Plan for the Church

8. The church is a theater for the glory of God

(Ephesians 3:20–21)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 3:20–21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ **to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

God's Plan for the Church

9. The church is the ransomed bride of Christ

(Ephesians 5:25–32)

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 5:25–27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

God's Plan for the Church

Ephesians 5:28–32

²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.