

Why Christians Love the Lord's Church

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. In human history, few institutions have been more misunderstood and maligned than the Church.

1. While local congregations are made up of frail and fallible people, that has no bearing on the wisdom of God in ordaining the church as the gathering of all of the saved.
2. Unfortunately, much of the criticism being leveled against the church today is not only coming from those outside, but from those within.
3. George Bernard Shaw, Irish dramatist, playwright, and literary critic, self-styled mystic, and complete atheist, once stated what would happen if the church closed its doors worldwide even temporarily.
4. He claimed that it would have "a very salutary effect. It would soon evoke an irresistible desire for the re-establishment of the church."
5. No matter what people say, not merely the saved, but also the world itself cannot live without the church.

B. Why do Christians love the Lord's Church?

1. Nearly all profess love for it, but an increasing number do not combine their professed love for the church with works that manifest their love
2. What wife believes her husband's profession of love if he does not care for her or live with her?
3. What child believes a mother's profession of love if she does not nurture and care for him? - 1John 3:18

I. BECAUSE JESUS LOVES THE CHURCH

A. Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28

II. BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS OUR FAMILY

A. Gal. 3:26; 1Tim. 5:1-2

III. BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT THE CHURCH HAS ON THE WORLD

A. Matt. 5:13-16; 1Cor. 14:24-25; Phil. 2:15

IV. BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF ALL THE SAVED

A. Eph. 5:25-27; Acts 2:47

V. BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS LED BY CHRIST

A. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18

VI. BECAUSE THE CHURCH WAS BEGUN BY CHRIST

A. Rev. 5:9; Eph. 2:10; Matt. 16:18

VII. BECAUSE THE CHURCH HAS CONVICTIONS

A. 1Tim. 3:15; 2Tim. 3:16

- B. When a congregation fails to embrace the Bible as altogether true it is subject to weaken or dissolve. Churches are sound who don't try to change the Bible or find fault with it, but just believe and practice it.

VIII. BECAUSE THE CHURCH ENJOYS FELLOWSHIP

- A. 1John 1:3; Acts 2:42

IX. BECAUSE THE CHURCH HAS A DIVINE WORK

- A. Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 3:10
- B. The church is charged with the responsibility of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person. Only when man's heart is changed will the world be changed. No institution or organization has a higher, nobler commission.

X. BECAUSE THE CHURCH WORKS TOGETHER

- A. Gal. 2:9; Eph. 4:16
- B. When God's people work together, incredible things are accomplished for the good of humankind and the cause of the Kingdom.

XI. BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS GENEROUS

- A. 2Cor. 8:1-4; Acts 4:33-35

XII. BECAUSE THE CHURCH WILL STAND FOREVER

- A. Dan. 2:44; Luke 1:32-33