

The HEART of the CHURCH: Part 1- United

When churches get their true role right they are such a blessing to us all.

The positive things about churches outweigh the negative things.

And that is why it is important for us to appreciate what is in the heart of a church that gets it.

Key idea- The heart of the early church reveals that the early believers are united with Christ and united with one another.

³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31-32 NKJV

1. The church is **united** and one **with Christ**.
 - a. Ephesians 1:22-23
 - b. Ephesians 2:20-21

2. **Union** with Christ **translates** to **union with** His bride- **the church**.
 - a. Acts 1:8
 - b. Acts 2:42-47 ⁴² They **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were **together** and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet **together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate **together** with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

3. **Unity with Christ** leads to **spiritual maturity**. Ephesians 4:9-16
 - a. The ones who are ministered will minister
 - b. The ones who receive will give
 - c. The ones who are being served will serve
 - d. The ones who were led to Jesus will lead others to Him.
 - e. The forgiven will forgive.
 - f. The healed will heal.
 - g. The one who got loved will express love.
 - h. The ones given time will give time.
 - **What season in your faith are you in now? Are you the one being served or are you now serving?**
 - **What is holding you up from moving to the next phase?**

4. **Spiritual maturity means** your heart beats in **sync with the heartbeat of Christ**. Philippians 1:20-21 ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient

*courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹
For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

5. A **mature believer** is **united with Christ** and **His church**.
6. A clear **mission and vision** are healthy **expressions of unity**.

Westway Mission: *“To help our neighbors find their way back to God.”*

Westway Vision: *To love God first and foremost, to grow in love with one another, and to serve our world!*