

The Labor of the Ministry

The *preciousness of the church*:

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| 1) Purchased with his <u>blood</u> (Acts 20:28) | 7) He <u>labors</u> over her (Eph 5:26—27) |
| 2) The <u>wisdom</u> of God is made know through the church (Eph 3:10) | 8) Christ nourishes and <u>cherishes</u> the church (Eph 5:29) |
| 3) The church is his <u>body</u> (Eph 5:23; Col 1:18) | 9) The church is the pillar and buttress of the <u>truth</u> (1 Tim 3:15) |
| 4) He is her <u>Savior</u> (Eph 5:23) | 10) The Ruler of the church is the <u>ascended</u> Christ (Eph 4:7—10) |
| 5) Christ <u>loves</u> the church (Eph 5:25) | |
| 6) Christ <u>gave</u> himself up for her (Eph 5:25) | |
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1) Giftng (11)

2) Equipping (12)

3) Laboring (12)

4) Building (12)

5) Unifying (13)

6) Maturing (13—14)

7) Growing (15—16)

GBC Application Questions

Grace Bible Church desires that you respond to this sermon by believing the gospel, obeying the Savior, and discipling the world for the glory of God. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions and praying through the issues will help you further meditate upon God’s Word in order to see how this can be done.

1. In thinking through how precious the church is to God, which description jumps out at you? Which one do you think highlights most vividly how precious the church is?

2. In what ways can the leaders of the church equip the saints for the work of the ministry? What is involved in this equipping process? How can each of us take full advantage of the ‘gifts’ the Lord has provided the church in the spiritual leaders he has placed over each church?

3. When you think of the ‘work of the ministry’ what comes to mind? (see Romans 12:6—8; 1 Cor 12:4ff)? Remember that those lists that Paul provided were not exhaustive so think outside the box!!

4. Warren Wiersbe said, “We have too many people who have plenty of medals and no scars.” In the context of today’s message, what do you think Wiersbe means by his statement? How do we as a body of Christ motivate one another to be willing to suffer scars for the work of the ministry?

5. What opportunities do you have for the work of the ministry on Sunday mornings? What opportunities do you have for the work of the ministry in your small group? What opportunities for the work of the ministry evangelistically?

6. How can you take a more proactive role in building up the church of the living God? Where could you labor more effectively internally? Where could you labor more effectively externally (evangelistically)? What will you do differently this year from this past year to grow and stretch yourself for the sake of the body??

<i>This week’s Bible Reading:</i>			
<i>Sunday, January 3:</i> Genesis 5:1-6:22 Matthew 3:1-17	<i>Monday, January 4:</i> Genesis 7:1-9:29 Matthew 4:1-22	<i>Tuesday, January 5:</i> Genesis 10:1-11:32 Matthew 4:23-5:20	<i>Wednesday, January 6:</i> Genesis 12:1-14:24 Matthew 5:21-42
<i>Thursday, January 7:</i> Genesis 15:1-17:27 Matthew 5:43-6:15	<i>Friday, January 8:</i> Genesis 18:1-19:38 Matthew 6:16-34	<i>Saturday, January 9:</i> Genesis 20:1-21:34 Matthew 7:1-20	<i>Sunday, January 10:</i> Genesis 22:1-23:20 Matthew 7:21-8:13