

Out of Love for the Church

Acts 21:15-26

Main Point:

Though it's not easy and requires a lot, love the church because Jesus has loved you.

1. The church of Christ is worthy of your love.

2. But loving the church is not always easy to do because of sin.

3. It also requires great humility and a selfless spirit on your part.

4. Nevertheless, you should still love the church, especially since Jesus has loved you.

Romans 15:25-26 ²⁵ But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. ²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “Paul’s presentation of the monetary gift would, he hoped, heal wounds that had developed over the past decade.”

Dennis Johnson “Paul’s epistles show that, while he insisted that circumcision not be imposed on Gentiles, he never demanded that Jewish believers abandon it. Its presence or absence was irrelevant to a person’s relationship to God ...”

Galatians 6:15 ¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. (NKJV)

Philippians 2:3 ³ *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. (NKJV)

Rosaria Butterfield “My special move these days involves dying a thousand deaths daily for the love of God and neighbor.”

Derek Thomas “Whatever ... we might say about this incident, we cannot take away from Paul that he did it because he believed that the church was more important than his own reputation.”

Philippians 2:5-8 ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. (NKJV)