

Deconstructed

The Church (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

The local church is the Bride and Body of Christ.

Key Scriptures

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:18 NLT

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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. Ephesians 5:25-27 ESV

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27 ESV

The church is:

- The Bride of Christ.
 - Honored
 - Adored
 - Served
 - Celebrated
- The Body of Christ.
 - Unified
 - Supported
 - Organized
 - Strengthened
 - Released

Harbor Church will lean into:

- Local Families
 - Opening an Infant room
 - Building out a kitchen
- Area Teenagers
 - Resources & scholarships for trips and events
 - Full-time Youth Pastor
- Global Missions
 - The Crandalls in Thailand
 - One Heart in Athens, Greece
 - CASA in Mexico

Start talking.

- What mistakes has the local church made in your lifetime?
- What are some of the common causes of those mistakes?
- Why should the local church continue to matter?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 16:18. This is the first use of the term, "church" in the New Testament. What can be interpreted from the five words, "I will build my church"? Why is that phrase so important?
- Read Ephesians 5:25-27. What do they tell us about Christ's special relationship with the church? How should that impact our view of church?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27. How is the "body" metaphor informative to our understanding of church?

Start sharing.

- Read the list of values under both the Bride and Body of Christ sections. Describe circumstances you seen them to be true and where they have failed.
- Why is it important to critically evaluate the harm caused by a church and the harm caused by individuals within the church?
- Why should someone who has been hurt by the church or those within the church choose to be a part of it?

Start doing.

- How can understanding the special status of the local church as both the Bride and Body of Christ impact your relationship with it?
- Would you pray about joining Harbor as we faithfully respond to God's leading to build our capacity as a church to care for one life at a time?
 - If you choose to partner with us, please follow this link to learn more:
<https://harborchurch.life/care>

Closing prayer.

Jesus, thank you for establishing, setting apart, and supporting the local church. With all its flaws and blemishes it remains your Bride and Body. Show me how to embrace my role in each aspect. Help me to bring honor and health to the local church you have led me to. And help Harbor be every bit the church you have called it to be. To faithfully, and courageously build our capacity to care for one life at a time.