**Series: Rediscover Church**

**Today: Church Matters**

Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister

* Church = A specific, tangible community of believers who gather regularly to help each other follow Jesus.

1. The church is matters much to Jesus.

* Builder
* Head
* Husband

***Matthew 16:13-19***

*13When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*

*14They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

*15“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

*16Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*

*17Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades] will not overcome it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will bebound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will beloosed in heaven.”*

***Ephesians 5:22-30***

*22Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

*25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansingher by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30for we are members of his body.*

1. The church deals with ultimate and eternal issues.

***1 Timothy 3:16***

*… you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

1. The church is a community of belonging.

***Colossians 3 (The Message)***

*Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.*

*So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.*

1. The church makes a difference in our world.

*“You are the salt of the earth.” - Jesus*