



May 1, 2011

11:00 a.m.

Pastor Bob Hopper

**Love God,
Love each other.
Serve the world.**

“The Glory-Driven Church”

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon Notes

A Quiz on the Church

1. The Christian church is essentially:
 - A. A voluntary gathering of people who financially support the church in exchange for the provision of religious goods and services.
 - B. A social gathering of people of like mind and similar interests who can support each other in their social and religious pursuits.
 - C. A cultural change agent whose primary purpose is to effect positive change in society.
 - D. A place where parents can send their children to receive Christian education and have positive role models.
 - E. All of the above.
 - F. None of the above.

2. Below is a list of descriptions of the church. Most are from the Bible, some are not. Circle those that are NOT from the Bible.
 - A. The light of the world.
 - B. God's chosen or elect people.
 - C. The pillar and foundation of the truth.
 - D. The social hub of the local community.
 - E. A holy priesthood.
 - F. The body of Christ.
 - G. A place where Christians can meet and be comfortable.
 - H. The place where I can be recognized for my many contributions.
 - I. The bride of Christ.
 - J. God's holy nation.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What three institutions has God created? What would happen to society if any one of these three would disappear?
2. What is the primary purpose of the family?
3. What is the primary purpose of the state?
4. What is the primary purpose of the church?
5. When Saul (prior to his conversion) was a persecutor of the early church, what did Jesus say to Paul that reflected Jesus' view of the church (see *Acts 9:4-5*).
6. Do you agree or disagree with this statement (and state why): "Most Christians in America today have a very weak and sub-standard understanding of the nature and purpose of the church."
7. What does the word, *glory*, mean?
8. What are the three primary ways that God reveals His glory?
9. What are the implications of seeing the church as *the bride of Christ*?
10. What are the implications of seeing the church as *holy*?
11. What are the three primary purposes of Southport Presbyterian Church? Do they all bring God glory?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
12. If you have a "low" view of SPC – how does that affect the way you serve and support SPC? If you have a "high" view of SPC – how does that affect the way you serve and support SPC?
13. If you are married and your spouse is not a perfect person, are you still called by God to love and serve your spouse? If you are a member of SPC and SPC is not a perfect church, are you still called by God to love and serve your church?

A Reflective Prayer

Oh, Great Founder of the Church, how can I thank You for
being numbered among your elect,
being called your beautiful Bride,
belonging to the very Body of Jesus on earth,
having the privilege of being
Your hands, Your feet, Your voice.

There was and is nothing in me that deserves this status,
nothing I did or can do to merit this honor,
nothing I claim to enjoy this privilege.

Grant to me – and to us – a greater love for Jesus,
a loftier view of His church,
a deeper love for His bride,
a stronger devotion to His people,
a greater passion for His glory.

Purge Your church of all that is untrue and unholy,
shape our identity with the gospel,
refine our character with adversity,
establish our priorities by Your Word, and
protect and direct our leadership by Your Spirit.

Use us to fulfill Your saving purposes on earth,
forgive us for our self-serving indulgences,
grant us to know Christ and make Him known,
empower us to take the gospel to the nations,
sanctify us to be a city of light on a hill.

Oh, dear Savior, we love You and ask You to increase our love
for You, Your Word, Your Church, Your Glory. Amen.