

THE POWER OF BELONGING

My Church, the Bride

Reference: **Philippians 2:5-11**

Pastor Daniel Flynn

Paul says very powerfully, “Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,” So we must ask the question, ‘What DID Jesus do?’

- He “did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage”
- “He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave.”
- “He humbled Himself.”
- He became “obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.”

PRAYER IS THE HALLMARK OF A VITAL MINISTRY...

therefore, the hallmark of a vital Church Member is prayer.

- Pray for the Pastor and other Church Leaders. Pray for our elders that as they serve, God leads their hearts and they remain devoted to godly biblical decisions!
- Pray for your Pastor. He needs prayers for his sermons; for Godly wisdom, insight, and words to preach.
- Pray for every leader: Pray for them and their families. – Reference: **1 Timothy 3:5**
- Pray for protection. - Reference: **1 Timothy 3:2-4, 7**
The word reproach means “*to find fault*,” So, to be “*above reproach*” means, “*to be above finding fault.*”
- Pray for their physical and mental health.

So, what does this look like?

Pray for five minutes a day for the leadership of the church. Prayer doesn’t change things... prayer changes everything.

Our perspective should always be on giving and not receiving. If someone does something that disappoints or frustrates us, it just may be God’s way of telling us and motivating us to pray for that person.

Jesus died on the cross for people who rebelled against Him! Therefore, we should be able to love the seemingly unlovable in the church.

We should strive to love people despite their imperfections. We should always be looking to get the “log” out of our own eye (our own imperfections) before judging the “speck” in someone else’s eye. Reference: **Matthew 7:3-5**

CHURCH & FAMILY... CHURCH AS FAMILY!

The Bible often uses the family as a descriptor for the church.

Reference: **Ephesians 5:22-26, 32-33, 6:1-4**

Just as we are supposed to sacrifice and love our families unconditionally, so are we to love those churches where God has placed us. We are to find our joy in serving both our families and the church.

We are also reminded of the importance of the family to the church. We are to encourage our family members to be faithful to the church. We should pray together as family members for our churches. Indeed, as we are to strive to love our families more deeply, so should we exhort our family members to love the church more deeply.

WE ARE CALLED TO FALL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Christ is the bridegroom, and the church is the bride. Our commitment is to love that bride with an unwavering and unconditional love.

Unconditional love is not always easy.

Unconditional love means I will continue to fall more deeply in love regardless of the response.

And as I grow more deeply in love with my church. I will do all I can in God’s power to bring my family with me. We will pray for our church leaders together. We will worship together. And we will serve together.

WHAT IS YOUR PART?