**Wait… What? — The Bible shows that many Christians don’t know how much they should be loving the church**

**2 January 2022**

# Jesus’ explicit attitude to the church, to any church, to this church

# The apostles’ explicit attitude to the church, to any church, to this church

## Peter

## James

## The church is central to Paul.

### The church is, even in the present age, of great heavenly significance.

### This is reflected in Reformed theology, e.g. Calvin.

# What the Bible has to say about the Church

## The Bible’s entire message culminates in this.

## Love at the beginning

### God’s elective love to build up a people for himself holy to him

#### A people preserved from destruction for holy use

## Love in progressive fulfilment

## Love at the end, in the church

## Fulfilment of the law is manifest in the church as a community of the new creation in love.

## The Gospel of the kingdom of God presupposes the church of holy servants in worship.

# Why we don’t love the church

## Our view of the church

## Who we are - Gen XYZ

## A rejection or ignorance of doctrine

## A rejection of God’s worldview of God, the community, self – us against reality.

## The hypocrisy of Christian worship

# How can we not love the church?

## The church is the new humanity in Christ.

## Loving God without loving his church is impossible, but loving the church is possible because of Christ.

# The activity of love

## Gathering

## Building

## Protecting and fighting for it 2-3 John, the Pastoral Epistles, Jude

## Evangelism

## Faithfulness