PART I: “LIFE TOGETHER” PART I: “LIFE TOGETHER” [Ephesians 2:19-22](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A19-22&version=NIV)/[Acts 2:41-44](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A41-44&version=NIV)

The church owes its origins, is birth, not to man but to God.

To love Shepherd Church correctly, we must first love the universal church correctly.

There I no greater honor on Earth than to be a part of God’s church.

[Ephesians 5:29-30, 32](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A29-32&version=NIV)

We cannot love Jesus well until we love His Bride well.

When we are “in Christ,” all that is TRUE of Him changes what is TRUE of us.

[Ephesians 2:13](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A13&version=NIV)

We are connected through the body of Christ by being connected to the Gospel of Christ.

One of the beautiful realities of the Christian life is that it is meant to be shared together.

Being in Christ means love is an EXPECTATION. It is simply what believers do.

The REDEEMED of the Lord will be DRAWN together. [Acts 5:32](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+5%3A32&version=NIV)

When we grasp that we are works in progress, GRACE will do its job:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Christianity means community through Jesus Christ

and in Jesus Christ.”

***It is a gift of God to be cherished and treasured, part of something sacred, the heavenly community, something bigger than ourselves. We are part of an eternal plan! When we see the church from God’s perspective we cannot treat it as optional.***

[Ephesians 3: 8-10](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV)