

10am Celebration Service

May Series: Foundations 2007

May 6	<i>The greatest wedding celebration!</i>	<i>Ian Miller</i>
May 13	<i>God in the House!</i>	<i>Ian Miller</i>
May 20	<i>A Magnificent church!</i>	<i>Ian Miller</i>
May 27	<i>Abundance in God's House!</i>	<i>Ian Miller</i>

Today marks the beginning of the highlight month of our calendar here at CCH.

Intro: what May is about...

Bit of history from 2003 onwards.

Intro 2: May is about vision! Who we are!
What we're about! Why Jesus brought us together!

I've been hanging out for this series! It's gonna be electric!

God talks about the church in all sorts of ways in the Bible – an army, a family, a body, a building, a field.

At a recent Encounter, Ash's word – really resonated – bride!

Reflection on Drama!

So, I'm kicking this series off with some thoughts about being a bride! (Don't worry guys, it'll work for us too!!)

The Greatest Wedding Celebration!

Illn: when I took Caz's wedding, all cultures celebrate marriage with wedding festivals!
Why?

Have a look at this...

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this

same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Key thoughts:

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives – Ephesians 5:22

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

Husbands – Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

But here's the verse that everyone misses!!

Ephesians 5:31-32

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

He's NOT TALKING ABOUT US!!!

It has implications for how we relate to each other.

But we're supposed to see the picture!!

Why do all cultures celebrate marriage with wedding ceremonies?

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

There's something in us that hungers for real relationship, face-to-face, happy, safe encounter with God.

He's planted eternity in our hearts!

It's why we celebrate face-to-face, happy, safe, real, committed relationship between a man and a woman!

He's planted eternity in our hearts!

We're built to have that kind of relationship with God!

It's what Jesus died for!

Ephesians 5:25-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Reflection: Drama

He died to present us as a Radiant Church!

CCH – BE RADIANT!

Be what we're created to be!

We are loved!

Ephesians 5:29

After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body.

We are blessed!

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

We are empowered!

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

We are Awesome!

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

So, let's live like we believe it!

Our church is radiant!

IS that pride? No! It's WONDER!! God is FOR us!!!

Let's not just come along! But be a part!
Inspire the church here!

Together we can do awesome things! We can change our world!

Building update

Progress so far, land update

May 27

Opportunity for 2 year commitments!

Splash offering!

Let's pray!

We're continuing our special May series...
Foundations: A Glorious Church

Intro: bride

Ephesians 5:25-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Today's message...

God in the House!

Key verse...

Psalm 26:8

I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.

Illn: if you could go somewhere to meet with Jesus, what would you give?

In OT, if you wanted to meet with God, you had to go to the Temple.

At every turn, there was a new barrier.

What was that about? There's a problem.
The way isn't open. You can't come!

But even still, David could say...
I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.

Then comes Jesus, the cross...

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are
God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in
you?

In fact...

1 Corinthians 6:19

Do you not know that your body is a temple
of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you
have received from God?

And here's my message for today...

Psalms 26:8

I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.

CCH – God lives here!

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are
God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in
you?

Psalm 26:8

I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.

God lives where he loves!!
Have you got a need today?...

CCH – there's glory here!

Within us!!

Ephesians 1:18

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may
be enlightened in order that you may
know... the riches of his glorious
inheritance in the saints

Ephesians 1:19-22 (NLT)

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms... God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

Psalm 26:8

I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.

CCH – WE LOVE IT!!!

We love where God lives!

We love our church, because we love Jesus!

Speak highly of it!

Back it!

Expect greatness from your church!

Buy into its vision!

And what IS our vision?

CCH Masthead

Impacting Communities for Christ

Jonah 4:11

But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, and many cattle are also there. Don't you think I should be concerned about that great city?

It's our passion.

It's why we set ourselves up to grow.

It's why our doors are always open.

Our region needs hundreds of effective, growing, dynamic churches – full of faith, full of the Spirit, full of vision!

It's why four years ago we bought The Bridge!

Now it's getting too small!

It's why this month we refocus on our
Foundations...

May 27th

Commitment Card

Splash offering

Psalm 26:8

I love the house where you live, O LORD,
the place where your glory dwells.

Let's pray.

We're continuing our special May series...
Foundations: A Glorious Church

Intro: bride

Ephesians 5:25-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Today's message...

A Magnificent Church!

Background to construction of OT Temple

1 Chronicles 22:5 (NLT)

David said, "My son Solomon is still young and inexperienced. And since the Temple to be built for the LORD must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world, I will begin making preparations for it now."

That was the OT Temple. But as we saw last week, God doesn't live any longer in a building! He lives in his people!

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

And let me ask you this...

If God wanted the OT Temple to be glorious, how much more glorious is the Real Temple where he lives – in us!?

1 Chronicles 22:5 (NLT)

The Temple of the LORD must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world.

It MUST be!

Let's make his Temple glorious!

It's already filled with glory! Jesus is here, isn't he?

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

But WE can make his Temple glorious!

Psalm 66 tells us to make his praise glorious!
Read it...

Psalm 66:1-4

Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name."

1 Chronicles 22:5 (NLT)

The Temple of the LORD must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world.

Let's make his Temple famous!

How does a church become famous?

Faith! Daring deeds done in Jesus' name!

Acts 4:30-31

“Lord, stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

How many times do you read in the book of Acts “and the word of the Lord grew”?

His Temple becomes famous when we discover his vision for our world and our church, and we grab hold of it with both hands.

What's our vision?

Impacting communities for Christ

To grow, expand in our influence – see families restored, etc, etc, etc

1 Chronicles 22:5 (NLT)

The Temple of the LORD must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world.

Let's make his Temple magnificent!

Let's be magnificent!

How we present ourselves reflects what we think of ourselves, what we think of our church, what we think of our world, and what we think of Jesus!

Our motto: Excellence with heart!

Proverbs 18:9

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

1 Chronicles 22:5 (NLT)

The Temple of the LORD must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world.

Throughout the earth!

We've got a global vision...

(CCH Masthead)

We want to make international impact.

Acts 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

1 Chronicles 22:5 (NLT)

The Temple of the LORD must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world.

It's why this month we refocus on our

Foundations...

May 27th

Commitment Card

Splash offering

Let's pray

Today's our Celebration Sunday.

Illn: Sarah's idea about church celebrations
– Christmas we celebrate Jesus coming to us; Easter we celebrate his death and resurrection for us; end of May is when we celebrate the church Jesus' bride! (wheel around this for a bit)

Ephesians 5:25-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

I'm calling today's message...

Abundance in God's House!

One of our Core Beliefs in this place is...

The Life of Faith is a life of Abundance

Abundant in every way

Happiness/productivity/devotion to Christ and his purposes

He gives us his Spirit to open up to us a world of miracles, healings and dynamic answers to prayer.

Faith/expectation

Psalm 36:7-9

How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among people find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life.

God's house – US!

There's abundance in his house!

Psalm 36:8

They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

There's abundance here...

Forgiveness

Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acceptance

Ephesians 2:19-20

You're no longer strangers and outsiders. You belong here... God is building a home. He's using us all in what he is building.

Faith

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Power

Ephesians 1:19

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him.

Prosperity

Psalm 35:27

May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant."

So often we look at what we DON'T have!
Finances, resources, time, talents, people,
specific answers to prayer.

We overlook what we DO have!

Illn: Moses at the Red Sea

What's in your hand?

The disciples with the 5000

What food do you have?

It makes all the difference when we place ourselves, our church, our gifts, our finances, our talents, our relationships, our hopes – into Jesus' hands!

Because we place it in JESUS' hands, not our own!

Call musos up

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

We see his abundance.

We feast on it!

We drink from his river of delights!

Celebration Sunday

That's what this is about!