

What Is The Aim of Christ's
Love?

Ephesians 5:26-27
Message

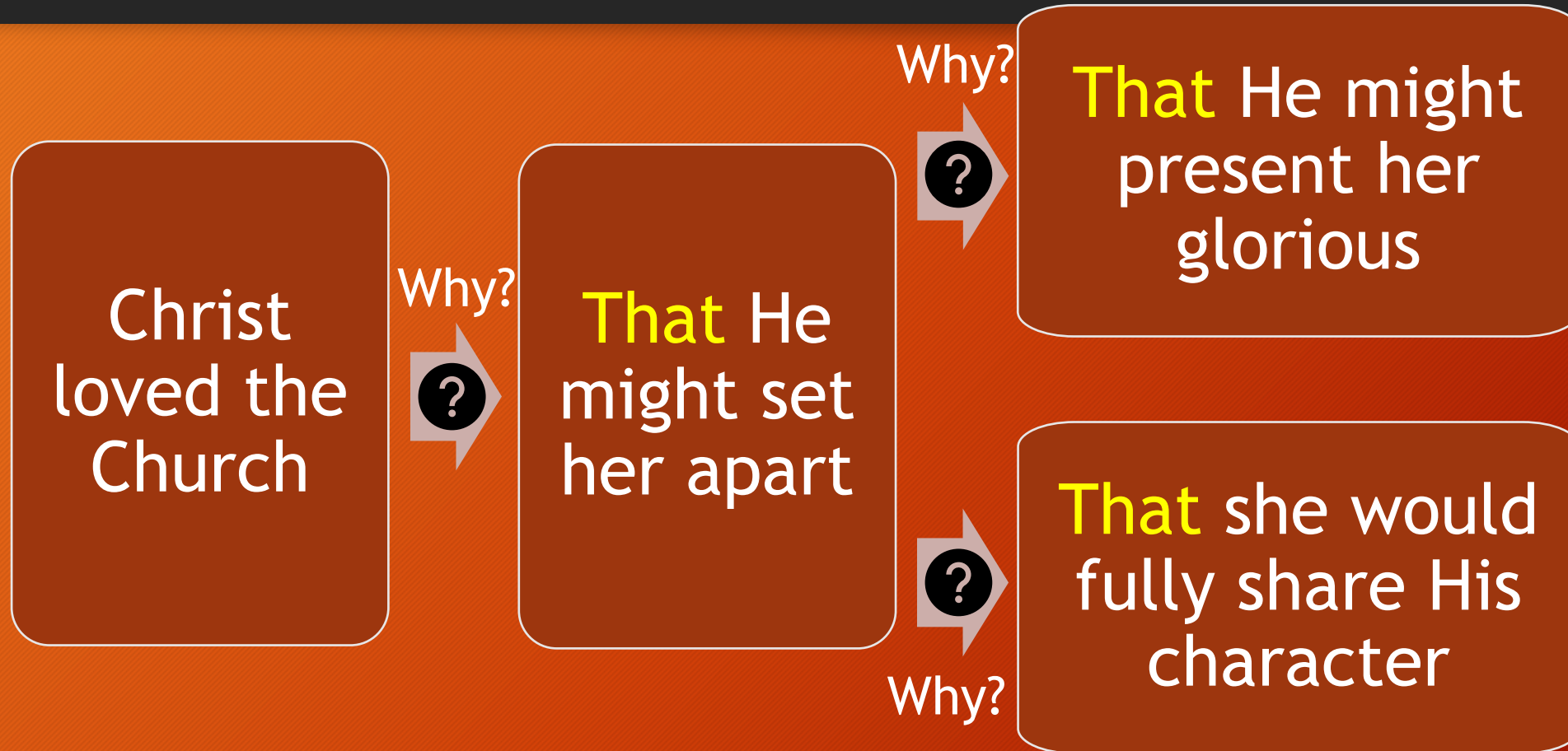
Christ's love pursues the
sanctification of His church

Active aspect of Christ's love

Stephen Charnock called Christ's love "the first spring of all the actions of Christ towards us, and the passion of Christ for us"

"Love excited him, love prepared him, love sent him, love offered him"

Eph 5:25-27 Structure



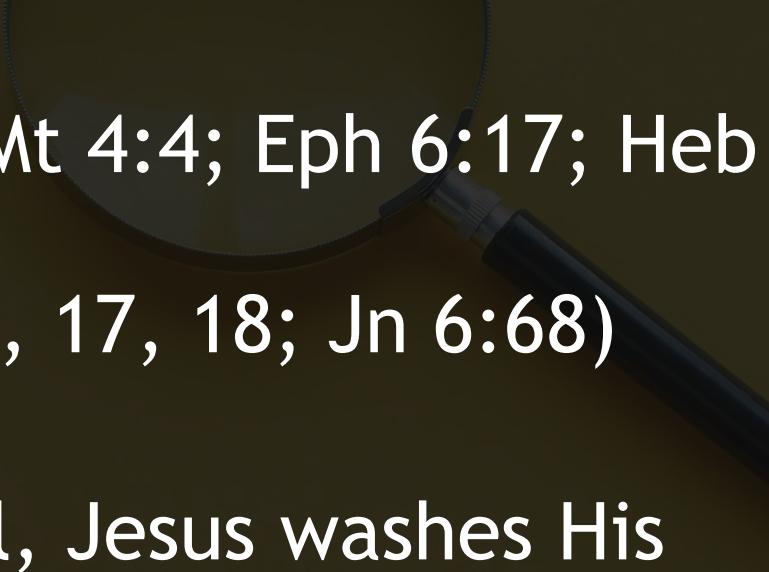
The Aim of Christ's Love - Eph 5:26-27

- I. Christ loved the Church so that He could set her apart to God (26)

“Sanctify”

- To set something apart or aside
- To consecrate to God or consecrate to serving God
- (Mt 23:19; 1 Tim 4:5; Jn 17:17; 1 Cor 1:2; 6:11; 1 Thess 5:23)
- ❖ A certain character accompanies being set apart
- ❖ A “set-apart-ness”, a holiness, a character that is like God

“Word”

- Greek: *rhema*
 - In NT used for God’s word (Mt 4:4; Eph 6:17; Heb 11:3)
 - Here - the gospel (Rom 10:8, 17, 18; Jn 6:68)
 - Using the word of His gospel, Jesus washes His Church
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The Aim of Christ's Love - Eph 5:26-27

- I. Christ loved the Church so that He could set her apart to God (26)
- II. Christ set her apart so He can present her glorious (27a)

“Spot” and “wrinkle” in Eph 5:27

“Spot” = the moral stain of sin
“Spot” + “wrinkle” = Total depravity

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- I. Christ loved the Church so that He could set her apart to God (26)
- II. Christ set her apart so He can present her glorious (27a)
- III. Christ sets her apart so that she will fully manifest His character (27b)

“Holy” and “blameless” in Eph 5:27

“Holy” = God’s character / “Blameless” = no defects
“Holy” + “blameless” = **Total moral perfection!**