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## **The Radiance of God**

**Ephesians 5:21-33**

[ref.ly/Ep5;niv](https://ref.ly/Ep5;niv)



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## **The “Mystery” of God God’s overarching plan**

With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> [God] made known to us **the mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to **bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

Ephesians 1:8b-10

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## **Sealed with the Holy Spirit**

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, **the promised Holy Spirit**, who is **a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

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### Ephesians 5:18-21

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to  
**1** bauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>  
speaking to one another with **3** psalms, hymns, and  
songs from the Spirit, **2** Sing and make music from  
your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to  
God the Father for everything, **4** in the name of our  
**5** Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for  
Christ.

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### Ephesians 5:22-24

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands  
as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the  
head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church,  
his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the  
church submits to Christ, so also wives should  
submit to their husbands in everything.

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**Ephesians 5:25-33**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

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<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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## The Big Idea

The Son of God is radically united with the Church  
glorious  
becoming one <sup>^</sup>flesh with her forever

"We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus  
may be glorified in you, and you in him, according  
to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."  
2 Thessalonians 1:12

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## What are we to do?

### Be astounded by this great love

- "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:17-19

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## What are we to do?

**Be astounded by this great love**

**Pursue what Christ is pursuing in us**

- “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to **take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.**” Philippians 3:12

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*Christ loved the church  
and gave himself up for her...  
to present her to himself  
as a radiant church.*

from Ephesians 5:25-27

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Crossway  
Multinational  
Church

## a radiant community

### 2025-26 Results Vision

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**"Christ loved the church  
and gave himself up for her...  
to present her to himself  
as a radiant church..."**

Ephesians 5:25-27

### **Radiant community**

A diverse community united in Christ  
filled with the presence of Christ  
to make known God's wisdom & glory  
in heaven and on earth

Love God &  
Love People

Make disciples

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# Crossway Board: Spirit-led Strategic Planning

- Making the most of every opportunity



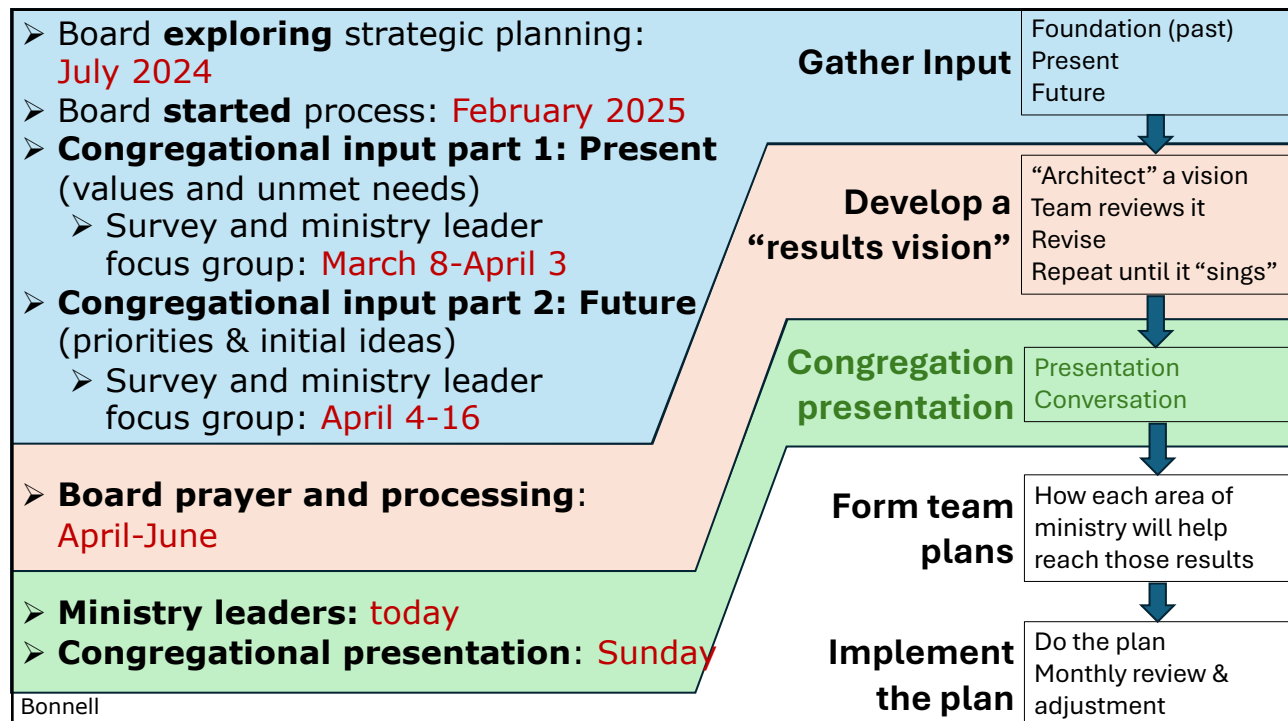
- Sustaining objectives  
plus  
Strategic objectives

**CURRENT**  
(keep doing our good work)

**NEW OR NEW EMPHASIS**

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## Our Foundational Vision

We strive to be a church  
that is for, of, and by  
the peoples of many nations

The peoples of all nations  
being transformed by Christ together  
to the glory of God

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## Our Core Values

- God's Word
- The Holy Spirit
- Diverse Unity
- Priesthood of all Believers
- Wholeness of our Humanity given to God
- Superabounding Grace  
and Complete Obedience

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## Congregational Input

### What we love and don't want to lose

- Our vision & values
- Our practices in our vision in our worship service
- Our people and church community
- Our building & location

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## Congregational Input

### Key unmet needs (high passion first)

- **Discipleship**
  - A clearer plan + Better use of Life Groups
  - Encouraging & equipping people to lead & serve
  - Special emphasis: Crossway Conversations  
[use for outreach too]
- **Body connections**
  - Assimilation + Keep building connections + Follow up
- **Outreach**
  - Demonstrate Christ's vision for His Church
  - Draw people in to experience our community
  - Integrate discipleship & outreach, serving together

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unmet needs

## Board Processing

### Major Areas

- **Discipleship + Body Connections**
- **Crossway Conversations**
- **Other:**
  - Volunteer support and recruitment
  - Outreach
  - Engagement with complex needs around us

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Crossway  
Multinational  
Church

## a radiant community

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...to present her to himself as a radiant church...”

Ephesians 5:26-27

By August 2026...

Living radiance → Discipleship

Multiplying radiance → Volunteers

Future radiance → Plan & “Conversations”

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• **Living radiance**

through a more radiant discipling community

- Clear, shared, flexible plan for discipleship
- More and richer Life Groups
- Assimilation team
- Intentional care for every regular attender



• **Multiplying radiance**

through more people in radiant ministry teams

- Plan for raising up future leaders
- Helping ministry teams grow social and discipling connections



• **Future radiance**

by boldly pursuing God's continued work together

- Develop a 3-year vision (build on this vision)
- Implement Crossway Conversations



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## We pray

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,  
**to him be glory in the church** and  
**in Christ Jesus** throughout all generations,  
 for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

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