

Sermon Series Title: "The Church of God"

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We're going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

"We are in our "The Church of God" sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church."

Call: Isaiah 26:9

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Title: "The Beauty of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Isaiah 26:10-11

Next Week's Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

Next Week's Title: "The Treasure of the Church"

Future Calls: Isaiah 26:12, 13; Luke 1:46-48a, 48b-49, 50, 51-52, 53, 54-55, 68-69, 70-73, 74-75, 78-79; Luke 2:13-14, 29-32; Revelation 5:6-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Revelation 15:3, 4; Revelation 21:1-4, 5-7, 22-23

Future Titles: "The Victory of the Church" (Matthew 16:13-20), "The Pathway of the Church" (Matthew 16:21-28), "The Unity of the Church" (Ephesians 4:1-7), "The Diversity of the Church" (Romans 12:1-8), "The Sufficiency of the Church" (Ephesians 4:11-16), "The Identity of the Church" (Matthew 5:13-16), "The Humility of the Church" (1 John 1:5-10), "The Draw of the Church" (2 Corinthians 2:14-17), "The Distinction of the Church" (1 Peter 2:11-12), "The Instrumentality of the Church" (1 Peter 2:9-10), "Church as Building" (1 Peter 2:6-8), "Church as City" (Ephesians 2:19-22), "Church as Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), "Church as Family" (John 1:12-13), "Church as Bride" (Ephesians 5:22-33), "The Eternality of the Church" (Revelation 21:1-7)

Fallen Condition Focus: We are broken church because of our sins.

Christ redeeming FCF: We are not defined by our sins and failures, but we are defined by Jesus' finished work on our behalf.

Central Truth: We are not defined by our sins, but we are defined by Jesus' finished work on our behalf.

Summary: The Corinthian church was a broken one. We see that they struggled with division, sexual immorality, idolatries, etc. And yet, Paul gives thanks for them. Why? Through the beginning of this letter, we see that it is rooted in who God is and what He has done in Christ. That is what defines us the most.

Reflective Questions:

1. How do you view yourself? How does that affect the way you live?
2. What does God say about you? What is your identity in Christ?
3. What does it look like to live with such an identity? What does it look like to view others in this identity?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. Our Broken Identity

- A. The Corinthian church was a broken church. If you lived back then, you would not believe it was a church.
- B. It was a divided church, factions following different key leaders.
 1. It was so divided that they didn't partake of communion together (ch. 10).
 2. They took the good gifts of God and made them into ultimate things- the source of their identity and worth
 3. Church splits
- C. They did not believe in Paul's apostleship, even though he planted the church (ch. 9).
 1. Denial of parent or child
- D. The church was filled with sexual brokenness (ch. 6).
- E. The idolatries of the city infiltrated the church.
 1. Idolatry of wealth, success, and fame- center of trade, wealth, entrepreneurial pragmatism (aspirational- wall street)
 2. Pluralistic city- different gods and idols (explorational)
- F. Paul even says that they were even worse than pagans (ch. 5).
- G. We deal with our brokenness- shame, guilt, sin, corruption
 1. Pride and judgmentalism

2. Seeking our worth and identity in different ways
3. Seek our own glory
4. Hate our neighbor
5. Sinned against God and look just like the world
6. Sonship story

III. Our Redeemed Identity (vv. 1-9)

- A. Standard opening- author, greeting, thanksgiving
- B. Apostle- unique to Paul, not Sosthenes; he uses this title to affirm his apostleship
 1. We are called as beloved children of God, followers of Christ
 2. We have an apostolic Word and witness.
- C. Sanctified- made holy
 1. Not perfect; theologically- definitive and progressive
 2. Set apart
 1. Being in Korea
- D. Saints- simultaneously saint and sinner; same status as John Piper and Tim Keller
 1. “Ultimate word of approval, acceptance, and identity encouragement”
 2. Not something we’ve earned- like Starbucks rewards or flight points
- E. We are saints together with all Christians with everyone who calls upon the Lord
 1. Communion of Saints; Psalm 133
 2. Hard when family members or friends fight
 3. PCA- Lord’s Supper
- F. Grace and Peace- summary of the blessings we have as people of God
 1. Grace- unmerited favor; peace- shalom/restoration/completion
 2. Sourced in God the Father through Jesus Christ
- G. Paul gives thanks to God for the church
 1. Unique reason (not personal benefit)- God’s grace and gifts
 1. Speech and knowledge- sources of pride for the people
 2. Speech to speak about Christ
 3. Knowledge- know Christ and the Lord
 2. Testimony confirmed in the church- gospel
 3. Not lacking in any gift (though they abused the gifts)
 4. Sustained to the end, guiltless on the last day; even though they are filled with sin and brokenness now
 1. When we fall, we fall forward.
 2. Airplane or car rides- bumpy; will we get to our destination
- H. God is faithful; called into fellowship with His Son

1. His faithfulness is evident in the fellowship.
2. Great Commission

IV. What it means for us

A. Do we see ourselves in this way?

1. Beloved children of God
2. Sanctified; saints
3. People who have received grace and peace
4. People who have received the gifts of God
5. People whose hope is secure and will be sustained till the end
6. People who have a faithful God and have fellowship with the Son
7. Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings- ordinary but in reality extraordinary

B. We must go to the source of these benefits- Christ Himself

1. Jesus is referred 9 times in these 9 verses. He is the source of our identity.
2. Orphaned on the cross so that we may be children of God; Set apart as saints because he was set apart as the ultimate sinner; can receive grace and peace because He took on wrath and brokenness; receive the gift of God because Jesus received the curse of God; Sustained to the end because He paid it all; fellowship because He was the One exiled
3. Our identity is sure because it has been given by someone else.
4. Dollar is rooted in gold

C. Through Christ, God changes the way we see ourselves, but He also changes the way we see the church. He allows us to see the beauty through the brokenness; healing through the scars.

D. We view the church with the eyes of God. We can thank God for the church, not because of personal benefit but what God has been doing

1. Hosanna- break my heart from what breaks yours
2. See the church with eyes of faith- compassion, gracious, charity, hope; we see them through the eyes of who they are in Christ and who they will be.