

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: Luke 1:46-48a

Text: Ephesians 4:1-7

Title: “The Unity of the Church”

Next Week’s Call: Luke 1:48b-49

Next Week’s Text: Romans 12:1-8

Next Week’s Title: “The Diversity of the Church”

Future Calls: Luke 1:50, 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 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 not united in our sinful pride.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ was first humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another toward us, so that we may be united in Him. He was torn apart, so He can bring us together.

Central Truth: May we live out the unity we have in Christ.

Summary: After talking about the theology of our salvation and the church in the first three chapters, Paul starts off the application of that theology, talking about the unity of the

church. Paul calls us to maintain the unity we already have in Christ with humility, patience, and peace. This unity is found in our faith and is rooted in our Triune God.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does it look like to be united as the church?
2. What is our hope for this unity?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- crucial juncture in the church in Korea, America, and New Life
- B. Transition- talking about the importance of church, who we are, what God says we are
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Fruit of our Unity (vv. 1-3)

- A. Therefore- what is it there for?
 1. First three chapters- doctrine before practice; indicative before imperative
 2. After reflecting on spiritual blessings and power we have in our salvation, being saved by grace through faith, being dead before in our sin but being raised up to new life in Christ, being reconciled, Jew & Gentile, and being made into one new humanity, having the mystery of the gospel be revealed, and hearing Paul's prayer for the church to grow in the gospel (the foundation for our EM vision)
- B. Prisoner for the Lord- imprisoned for proclaiming Christ and living out the truths he states in this letter
- C. Urge you- exhort, beseech, some passages- beg
- D. Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called- emphasis on repeated noun/verb
 1. Calling- spiritually blessed; saved by grace; regenerated by the Spirit; one new humanity; no longer stranger or aliens but are fellow citizens (Philadelphia with their sports), household (family), temple- dwelling place of God
 2. Our calling by God is not based on how well we live up to our calling, but our calling is based off of our calling. Walk worthy
 3. Worthy- axios- weight

- E. With all humility (thinking of self less), gentleness (meekness, not hostile, gentle word persuades- Proverbs, scalpel v. machete), patience (long-suffering), bearing with one another in love
- F. Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
 - 1. Let us be one voice
 - 2. Ephesian church consisted of people who had different backgrounds socially, ethnically, culturally, and religiously; with different agendas, priorities, goals, and personalities
 - 3. Maintain v. create
 - 4. Bond of peace- shalom, wholeness, restoration
 - 5. Called to be peacemakers (Matthew 5)- found in truth, sacrificing the self for the greater good
 - 6. Three ways we can fall short of this command
 - 1. Not be united at all
 - 2. Not just pursue unity but uniformity
 - 3. Maintain unity for unity's sake, not based on truth

III. The Root of our Unity (vv. 4-7)

- A. Not just purposeless unity; unity in our Triune Godhead; in the gospel
 - 1. The unity found in the Trinity is the unity found in the church; inseparable for eternity
- B. One Spirit, one body, one hope
 - 1. Just like man has body and spirit; the church has body and Spirit; we are Christ's body and we have His Spirit in the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Through the Spirit, we have the hope of salvation, resurrection life, unity (v. 3)
- C. One Lord, one faith, one baptism
 - 1. Saved by the same Savior; submit to one Lord
 - 2. One faith- confession/doctrine
 - 3. One baptism- spiritual baptism in Christ; washed clean of our sins; old self of sin that died and new self who lives
- D. One God, Father of all, over all, through all, in all
 - 1. One Father, one family
 - 2. Over all- omnipotent, through all- omniscient, in all- omnipresent
- E. Seven Ones- holy number- completion, fullness
- F. Grace given to each of us according to Christ's gift
 - 1. Grace- ability to live out God's command
 - 2. Gift of unity and the church
 - 3. Christ- source of our unity

1. Walk in a manner worthy of the calling because He first walked worthy of His calling; walked faithfully to the end
2. First to be humble, gentle (Gentle and Lowly), patient, bearing with us first; bearing our sins
3. Lost all peace on the cross to bring us peace with God and peace with one another
4. Torn apart to bring us together
5. Makes us sons of God by being orphaned on the cross