

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 1:48b-49

Text: Romans 12:1-8

Title: "The Diversity of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:50

Next Week's Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

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

Future Calls: Luke 1:51-52, 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 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 do not cultivate the diversity in our churches through uniformity or lack of service.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ died to make us members of His body and has given us our gifts.

Central Truth: In view of God's mercy in Christ, let us utilize our diverse gifts to glorify Him and build up His church.

Summary: After one of the greatest expositions of the gospel in the first 11 chapters, Paul moves on to the application portion of his letter. In view of God's mercy found in our

salvation, we are to be living sacrifices, being transformed by the renewal of our minds. Part of that sacrificial living is found in serving the body through the diversity of our gifts.

Reflective Questions:

1. What do the mercies of God mean for you?
2. What does the call to be a living sacrifice mean for you?
3. What gifts/opportunities do you have to serve the church?

I. Introduction

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

II. Our Service (vv. 3-8)

- A. Grace given to Paul- apostle; not earned but given
- B. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought (negative)
 1. Comparison, pride, self-centeredness in gifts
 2. Self-elevation & self-deprecation
 1. Root is the same- thinking gifts are earned
 2. Insecurity/pride- two sides of the same coin
- C. Think with sober judgment (in view of Christ)
 1. Our salvation and our gifts are all by grace.
 2. It humbles us from self-elevation, but it doesn't diminish our gifts to prevent self-deprecation.
- D. According to the measure of faith- In Eph 4, it's the grace given to each of us.
- E. One body, many members- diversity in the church
 1. Not have the same function
 2. If we were all an eye, we wouldn't be a person. We would be a monster.
- F. Thinking with sober judgment also has in mind that we need one another (friendship, fellowship, accountability, encouragement, etc.)
- G. Gift lists in four places in Scripture (Rom 12, 1 Cor 12-14, Eph 4, 1 Peter 4)
 1. Different lists show us that they are not exhaustive
- H. Different gifts:
 1. Prophecy- revealing and expounding God's word
 2. Service- Diaconal work
 3. Teaching- instructing the mind
 4. Exhorts- encouragement, admonition (walking alongside of person)

5. Contributes- Generously (no ulterior motive)
6. Leads- w/ Zeal (passion to serve the Lord)
7. Mercy- w/ cheerfulness (not dread or bitterness)

I. Parable of the Talents (in context of the church)

III. Our Sacrifice (vv. 1-2)

- A. The heart of our service is rooted in the call of sacrifice. It's not a mistake that Paul transitions into serving the church, right after talking about being living sacrifices. Living sacrifices include private worship, but it also includes service to bless the church.
- B. I appeal- beg like "urge" in Eph 4
- C. Brothers- family
- D. Present (like OT sacrifice- offer) your bodies as a living sacrifice
 1. Bodies- whole person
 2. Sacrifices- OT reference for totality and complete
 1. There will be hardship and difficulty in sacrifice. It will be uncomfortable.
 3. Living- Not dead but alive, resurrected, obedience (Not die in serving but live in serving)
 4. Holy and acceptable- firstfruits and without blemish; bring all of ourselves
 5. Spiritual worship- reasonable
 1. Reasonable after viewing the mercies of God
- E. Not conformed to this world (age) (negative)
 1. Human nature to follow the patterns of this age
- F. Transformed by the renewal of our minds (positive)
 1. Root word similar to metamorphosis
 2. Same root word for Jesus' transfiguration
 3. Mind renewal in the Word through testing and discerning the will of God, which is good, acceptable, and perfect.

IV. Our Source (v. 1)

- A. By the mercies of God- "in view"
 1. Describing the first 11 chapters- Theology of salvation (ch. 1-8), history of salvation (ch. 9-11)
 1. Justification by faith, Sanctification, Regeneration, Adoption, Perseverance of the Saints, Assurance of God's love, etc.
 2. TULIP
- B. Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice that died for our sins, without blemish, God's only begotten Son; so that we may be alive... be living sacrifices.

- C. He did not conform to this world, but He died, taking on the judgment of the world to save His people.
- D. He served. He utilized every gift... ultimate prophet, priest, king, servant, helper, counselor, teacher... died to give us gifts.
 - 1. Gift of salvation, gifts to the church, gift of Himself
 - 2. Need one another to experience Christ
- E. Parable of the Talents
 - 1. Jesus was the perfect steward of His talents, but He received the punishment for the wicked servant. And then He gave us His talents in order to serve Him, His church, and His kingdom.