

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 1:50

Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

Title: "The Sufficiency of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:51-52

Next Week's Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Next Week's Title: "The Identity 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 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 don't think we need the church, or we don't think the church needs us.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ has come, died, and given Himself and His gifts to the church.

Central Truth: "May we be found in Christ's love and be equipped to do ministry in His name."

Summary: Christ has given Himself and His gifts to the church. We need one another, and we have been equipped with the gifts to build one another up in love. That is how we grow together in Christ.

Reflective Questions:

1. What are the gifts you have for the building up of the body?
2. How can we grow in our gifts?
3. What keeps us united in Christ?

I. Introduction

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

II. Our Ministry (vv. 11-12)

- A. Paul gives another list of gifts here, but we see that it's talking about the leaders/shepherds of the church.
- B. Apostles- men who witnessed the resurrected Jesus and were commissioned by Him to teach doctrine for the church.
- C. Prophets- apostles and prophets were taken together
 1. Men who revealed the will and word of God
- D. Evangelists- gospel is the root word; sharing the gospel
 1. Commentator said that they were the OBs of the church- new birth
- E. Shepherds- elders/overseers who care for, lead, feed, and protect the flock
 1. Peter uses this language in 1 Peter 5; Jesus used it for Peter in John 21
- F. Teachers- instructing and directing the content of Christ
- G. These describe the leaders/shepherds of the church.
 1. Acts 6- Elders were to focus on Word and ministry
- H. Part of the purpose of the leaders
 1. Equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ
 1. It's not clergy is supposed to do everything
 2. Leaders should not be doing all the ministry. Then, it will be limited by the ability of the leaders.
 3. Ministry is a call of our members; pastors are really FT-equippers
- I. This equipping is for the building up of the body of Christ.
 1. That is not an option for Christians.

III. Our Maturity (vv. 13-14)

- A. We build the church up to be united in the faith and in the knowledge of Christ... to have the fullness of Christ.

1. This is what it means to grow and to mature in our faith- unity, knowledge, fullness
 2. We grow in maturity as we utilize our gifts.
 3. Can we say that our ministry resembles the fullness of Christ?
- B. So that we may no longer be children
1. We would criticize those of us who act like children as adults. But do we do that for our faith?
 1. P. David Chong- "You can repeat first grade 10 times, and you'll still be in first grade."
- C. Part of what it means to be a child is to be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, human cunning, craftiness, deceitful schemes.
- IV. Our Mentality (vv. 15-16)
- A. We are to speak the truth in love.
 1. Participle in the Greek- truthing; more than just speaking... we speak and act and think in truth and love. It's a way of life- a mentality.
 - B. Our growth is found in growing into Christ, who is the head.
 - C. Jesus is the Head... and He is who holds us together.
 1. Part of that means that truth and love are the ligaments that hold us together.
 - D. When each part is working correctly, the body grows in love.
 - E. We can be in the Word, because the Word first came to us.
 - F. We can be equipped for our mission because Jesus was stripped to accomplish His mission.
 - G. We can be found in truth and love, because Jesus is full of grace, truth, and love... He loved us to the point of death for our salvation.