

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 1:68-69

Text: 1 Peter 2:11-12

Title: "The Alienness of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:70-73

Next Week's Text: 1 Peter 2:9-10

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

Future Calls: Luke 1:74-75, 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: "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 have the wrong approach with the world.

Christ redeeming FCF: Jesus was the perfect alien, ultimately rejected on the cross, so we may be accepted.

Central Truth: "In Christ as the ultimate stranger, let us live in the world but not of the world."

Summary: Peter calls the church to live as strangers and aliens in this world. This does not mean we are to be separate from the world. Instead, we are to be in the world but not of the world. We are able to do this because of Christ who was the ultimate alien for us.

Reflective Questions:

1. What are the different ways we can approach this world?
2. What are some of the challenges for us to be “aliens and strangers?”

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- growing up as an immigrant; no home; M. Kathy Song
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. Where are we?

- A. Setting- Peter- apostle Peter- one of Jesus’ closest disciples; lived and spoke impulsively; had a high view of himself; denied Jesus 3 times
- B. Christians were persecuted in Peter’s day.
 1. New religion- people didn’t know it very well.
 2. They were seen guilty of cannibalism (The Lord’s Supper), incest (calling one another brothers and sisters in Christ), and suspicious superstition.
 3. Emperor Nero wrongly accused them of the Great Fire in Rome in AD 64. Apparently, he would take Christians, dip them in oil, and light them on fire to provide light for his courtyard parties.
- C. Peter is speaking to persecuted Christians.
- D. This letter is oozing OT references, especially Isaiah.

III. What are we called to do? (vv. 11-12)

- A. Beloved- “my dear friends”
 1. He is transitioning to a new section in this letter.
 2. He is going to preach to them hard truths, and he assures them that they are friends and loved by God.
- B. Sojourners and exiles (aliens and strangers)
 1. Refers to aliens, foreigners in a land who are here either for a short while or a long while. Their home is elsewhere.
 1. Foreigners in Roman empire would not practice certain customs and practices in the culture. They would not have rights as well.
 2. Jewish Christian audience living under Roman empire- they understand this language
 3. Through the letter, you see that Peter is not speaking of a certain ethnic group but he is speaking to Christians, the new Israel.

4. We are sojourners and exiles in this world. We are aliens. We have a different spiritual DNA. Our home is elsewhere. It's in heaven.
 1. Not motherland but fatherland
- C. Abstain from the passions of the flesh
 1. Negative and positive in Peter's command (abstain and keep)
 2. Passions of the flesh- Galatians 5:19-21 (sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these) before Fruit of the Spirit
 3. They wage war against our souls.
- D. Even in the Roman empire, this would be seen as honorable, since stoicism was regarded as highly back then.
- E. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles (non-Christians) honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
 1. Honorable- Ten Commandments; living with wisdom & the Fruit of the Spirit
 2. Speak against you as evildoers- unjust slander, differences are offensive
 3. Good deeds in the Greek- beautiful/attractive way of life
 4. Glorify God on the day of visitation
 1. Given OT roots, Peter is most likely referring to the Last Day
 2. They'll be saved because of our good deeds and glorify God. They'll be humbled on the Last Day, and still glorify God... along with our deeds that glorified God.
- F. Ways to live as a Christian in this world- Assimilation, Separation, Domination, Alienness/Attraction- set apart but beautiful; MLK- approach
- G. We need to be discerning- if God created this world as good, which parts are good and which parts are sinful? Which parts of our culture/world/lifestyle does the gospel criticize/affirm? Which parts of our faith are just mindless practices of religion and which parts are faithful to Scripture? Over what issues are we called to make a stand and over what issues are we called to give grace and compassion toward/submit? When is my heart courageous for Christ or stubbornly proud before others? How much are we friends with the world? Are we loving others or are we compromising our faith?

IV. How do we do it?

- A. Jesus was the greatest Sojourner, Exile, Stranger, and Alien.
- B. He was rejected throughout his life.
 1. His birth was a story of rejection- no room available

2. Homeless in his ministry
 3. Constantly opposed by the Jewish leaders
 4. He was the perfect example of being in but not of the world.
- C. He lived life beautifully and he died horrifically for our sins.
- D. He was exiled by God the Father on the cross.
- E. He became the ultimate Stranger... sinner... having no home on the cross, so that we can have a home... so that we can always be welcomed and embraced.
1. This is His good deed for our salvation, and it brings us to glorify Him today and on the day of His visitation.