

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 1:74-75

Text: 1 Peter 2:4-8, Ephesians 2:20-22

Title: "Church as Building"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:78-79

Next Week's Text: Selected Passages from Proverbs

Next Week's Title: "Friendship, Part One"

Future Calls: 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: "Friendship, Part Two" (Selected Passages from Proverbs), "Our Mission" (Luke 5:1-11), "Church as City" (Ephesians 2:19, Hebrews 13:14, Revelation 21:2), "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 live as a building in our isolation, division, hatred, and sin.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ has made us into a building by being the Cornerstone who was rejected so we may be saved.

Central Truth: "The church is a spiritual house, a dwelling place of the Spirit, with Christ as our cornerstone."

Summary: The church is living stones built up as a spiritual house. We are alive in Christ and joined together, built on the foundation of the Scriptures and indwelt by the Spirit, with Christ as our cornerstone.

## Reflective Questions:

1. What are some lessons you can take away from being called a building?
2. What are some ways you can come back to our foundation and cornerstone?

### I. Introduction

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

### II. How are we a building? (1 Peter 2:4-5, Ephesians 2:22)

- A. As you come to him- reference to Psalm 34:4-5- speaking of deliverance/restoration
  1. We are called to come to him... not once but daily (As).
- B. Christ is the living stone, rejected but chosen and precious.
- C. We are like living stones in Christ- resurrected in our hearts.
  1. Early church- rejected by men as well
  2. Like Jesus- they are chosen and precious in the eyes of God.
  3. We all desire to be chosen and not rejected
  4. We are one piece of the building; not the entire building itself
- D. Holy priests- offering sacrifices of our worship, sharing the atoning work of Christ, ministering to sin, and praying for one another.
- E. Joined together- connected to one another (it's hard to take out a piece without hurting others), supporting one another
- F. Being built together- Eph and 1 Peter both talk about it in the present indicative- ongoing; it's a process; not a finished product yet. God is adding to His church, and He is maturing us personally.

### III. Why is this significant? (Eph 2:20-22)

- A. Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets- the Scriptures (v. 20)
  1. The Word is the foundation for everything we do.
- B. Grows into a holy temple in the Lord (v. 21)
  1. Temple symbolized God's presence, grace, and favor in the OT.
  2. Tabernacle after Exodus; Temple with King Solomon
  3. Language regarding the Temple and Genesis 2 shows us that the Garden of Eden was the first temple... Man walked with God. And Revelation 21 the new heavens and the new earths will be a temple in eternity... God's dwelling place will be with man and man's dwelling place will be with God.

4. Jesus calls Himself the temple, God with us.
  5. Now, we are a temple. We don't go to a specific building in a specific place to worship God. God dwells in us and we worship God together.
- C. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (v. 22)
1. In the OT, only certain prophets and kings were filled with the Holy Spirit.
  2. The same Holy Spirit that created all things out of nothing, that filled the prophets and kings of the past, that spoke the Words of God through servants of God, that ministered to Jesus and raised Him from the dead, that takes out the heart of stone and puts in a heart of flesh, that illumines the mind to God's word and transforms our souls... that Holy Spirit is what dwells in us.
- IV. How is this possible? (Eph 2:20b, 1 Peter 2:6-8)
- A. Christ is our Cornerstone, citing Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22 (quoted by Jesus Himself in Matthew 21:42, Acts 4:11), and Isaiah 8:14.
1. Builders would go through many stones to find the perfect one for a cornerstone.
  2. Cornerstones determined size, direction, foundation of the building.
  3. Peter's confession in Matthew 16 shows Jesus to be the Rock of the church.
- B. He was the perfect Cornerstone.
1. We will not be put to shame and will be saved and honored.
- C. But He was the one rejected by men and the Jewish leaders.
1. He was rejected on the cross, so that we may be brought in.
  2. He was torn down on the cross, so that we may be built up.
  3. He was the One who was humiliated, taken on our shame, so that we may be restored.
  4. He was forsaken by the Father on the cross, so that the Holy Spirit may dwell in us.
  5. He was the One who died, so that we may be living stones.
  6. He was the Rock that was cast out, so that He may be our cornerstone... and the rock on which we stand.
  7. Christ is the ultimate temple, God with us. He was the One that was broken down on the cross and raised to new life in three days... to raise us up and be united with Him as we are the temple.
  8. The Father turned His face away. He poured His wrath upon His Son on the cross, so that His countenance may be upon us... so that He may dwell in us.