



LOCAL CHURCH | PT.5 PURPOSE | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

WE ARE LOOKING AT THE BIBLE TO DEFINE “CHURCH” AND NOT RELIGIOSITY NOR FLESHLY TERMS.

THE WORD “CHURCH” HAS BEEN DEFINED, REDEFINED, AND MISIDENTIFIED BY THE GENERATIONS OFTEN **FILTERED THROUGH THE LENS OF:** VALUES, TRADITION, AND BACKGROUNDS, IDEOLOGIES, SOCIETY, AND HERITAGE.

THE BIBLE'S DEFINITION OF CHURCH

IN THE BIBLE, THE **CHURCH IS DEFINED AS ONE INTITY, WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSES... AND BRANCHES**

CHURCH: “Ekklesia” (Greek: ἐκκλησία): “assembly” or “gathering.”

A BIG DEAL OF CHURCH IS FELLOWSHIP:

ACTS 2:42

FELLOWSHIP “koinonia” (κοινωνία) originates from the Greek language, carrying the core idea of shared participation, mutual association, and fellowship.

Koinonia places a practical call on followers to cultivate fellowship through:

1. **CARE:** Encouraging, praying for, and mentoring one another. Paul speaks of “building each other up” in passages such as 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

2. **SUPPORT:** Assisting and helping each other (Romans 12:13).

3. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Genuine fellowship gently corrects and restores members who stray (Galatians 6:1-2).

CHURCH IS IMPORTANT

HEB 10:19-25

- **-GOD INHABITS THE PRAISE OF HIS PEOPLE**
- **-WHERE 2-3 ARE GATHERED THERE HE IS**
- **-JESUS DID RETREAT TO HIMSELF TO PRAYER, BUT HE ALSO DID SO WITH GATHERINGS**

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER THAN APART.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

OUR LOCAL CHURCH: A tribe that seeks revival when others seek man or human feelings.

STOP:

- -putting down the struggling
- -looking for something of the flesh
- -looking for something specific (carnal or traditional)
- -praying useless babble
- -reading into conspiracies over faith

START/RESTART:

- -building up one another in grace and truth
- -being a part of solutions and growth
- -praising the Father
- -looking for the Lord's presence
- -praying in thanksgiving, petition, promise
- -reading the Word of God

WEEK ONE: LOCAL REVIVAL

BE A BETTER LOCAL CHURCH BY SEEKING PERSONAL REVIVAL.

WEEK TWO: TOGETHER

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE, AS HIS CHURCH, ARE TO COME TOGETHER... IN UNITY AND SIMPLY PRAY.

WEEK THREE: GENERATIONS

EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT AND VITAL TO THE SPREADING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

WEEK FOUR: PROBLEMS

WE CAN NOT HEAL OURSELVES, AND HARBORING HURT WILL ALWAYS RESULT IN A ROOT OF BITTERNESS IF LEFT UNCHECKED.

WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE LEAVE CHURCH, AND SO MANY DON'T EVER BEGIN....

- **BUSY**
- **BORING/STAGNANT**
- **BURN OUT**
- **OFFENSE**
- **DON'T SEE THE PURPOSE**

BUT THE BIBLE ALSO USES THE IMAGERY OF A BUILDING TO DESCRIBE HIS CHURCH...

THIS ALL SPEAKS TO PURPOSE...

1 PETER 2:1-12

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTE: ISAIAH 28:14-18

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS UNCERTAINTY, ALL THE CALAMITY THEY HAVE CAUSED THEMSELVES... ALL THIS MESS... IS VERSE 16.

GOD IS GOING TO REBUILD SOMETHING ALL THE GREATER... AND HE WILL ESTABLISH IT WITH A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE.

1 PETER 2:4-5

THE CORNER STONE IS JESUS, BUT **WE ARE** LIVING STONES, HIS CHURCH... BEING BUILT AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE OR "TEMPLE" FOR GOD.

1 PETER 2:7-12

THIS GIVES PURPOSE IN BEING BUILT TOGETHER.

In the Old Testament, there was a physical temple.

2 SAMUEL 7:13-15

Ezekiel 5:5

Deut 4:5-9

The temple was a central part of Jewish life, and would **demonstrate** to the world the ways of God, and that His people and their relationship with Him were supreme.

THE TEMPLE:

- -a place where God's presence could reside
- -a place of atonement
- -a place of worship
- -a place of prayer
- -and a demonstration to the world

If this all went to plan the temple would had been a literal place of hope!

God's people failed to maintain the faith and relationship with Almighty God; the temple then, in many ways, became

- -a place of religious artifacts
- -a place of human debate and judgment
- -a place of status and separation
- -a place of compromise

AMOS 5:21-24

Recall: 1 SAM 15:22 And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THIS OLD TESTAMENT TEMPLE:

JOHN 2:13-21

JESUS COMPARES THE TEMPLE TO HIS OWN BODY...

1 COR 12:12-28

THE CHURCH IS NOT GOD. BUT WE ARE TO FUNCTION AS HIS BODY AND BE THE "HOUSE" OF GOD.

WE DO NEED TO FIND OUR MEASURE, AND IF WE ARE IN LINE WITH CHRIST.

2 COR 10:4-5

JEREMIAH 31:31-34; 38-40

THE NEW COVENANT IS **NOT A FLESHLY IDENTITY.**

IT IS ONE MADE BY GOD WITH ONE WHO IS BORN AGAIN, WITH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

YET, GOD STILL HAS GIFTED US WITH A **COMMUNAL BENEFIT... TO COME TOGETHER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

EPHESIANS 2:12-22

YOU ARE THE CHURCH. I AM THE CHURCH. WE ARE THE CHURCH.

THE CHURCH HAS NEVER BEEN US VS. THEM.

ME<WE+THEM

ACTS 1:4-11 ACTS 2:1-4; 42-47

Matthew 28:19-20

MATT 12:21 NLT And his name will be the hope of all the world