

Re-Think Church (2) – Why Church?

Introduction: Last week we started “think” church and to “re-think” church. We began by learning “What Is Church”. In our time together we talked about the importance of us as a new church plant “re-thinking” church – we are at a very crucial time in our young history – we need to get this right!

We learned that church is...

1. A **Connection** – with God and people
2. A **Conversation** – Correction, Direction and Inspiration
3. A **Commitment** – We all must find our place and plug in. **Great churches don't just appear, they are built by sold out people!**

Today we will continue by looking at **Why Church?** Why even go to church? Is it important to you or God if you are in Church? Why did God even create this thing called church? To start today let look at one very powerful and promising scripture:

Matthew 16:13-19 - When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

1. This is His Church

- It can't be our church, it must be His
- It was his idea and He was the one who initiated it
- It is an imperfect church because it is full of imperfect people
- He will make his church complete and ready
- **Ephesians 5:27** - that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

2. His Church is His Body

- **Romans 12:5** - so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- **1 Cor. 12:27** - Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- **Hebrews 10:5** - Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.”
- **1 John 4:17** - Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

3. His Body is empowered to impact the world

- This empowerment comes only by the HS that was given to the Church as the seal of redemption in Acts 2

- **Ephesians 3:8-11** - To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord...

Areas of Gifting:

1. **Leadership:** **Ephesians 4:11-14** - And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
2. **Spiritual** – **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** - Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.
3. **Personal** – **Romans 12:3-8** - For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Conclusion: **Revelation 1:10-20**

- Put up a picture of the Tabernacle (Over head shot showing all compartments and furniture)
- Notice – The where the church is in God's eternal plan / divine order
- The church is a school master to get us into a dimension with him!