

LESSON 5 - Our Purpose

Point: define the church as called out for authority

It is his body

Our purpose as his body is to demonstrate his kingdom (authority)

REVIEW

Through series see that God's purpose was to create a world that he would fill with his glory - that image/form that would bring recognition of who He is

Originally, Adam created in his image

Given authority/dominion - which we demonstrated is kingdom

After Adam's fall, Jesus came as the second Adam

When born again, we are restored back to God's original plan: his image to represent him and demonstrate his authority

We are also placed into the body of Christ - his church

THE CHURCH

Many diff ideas what the church is and should be

Importance is what the bible states about it.

Biblical View Of Church

Jesus used:

- ekklesia: (ek-klay-see'-ah)
- NT word for church 116x
- a compound noun from ek, "out of," and kaleo, "to call."
- **"a regularly summoned legislative body, assembly,"**

A. Pre-Christian Usage

Challenge today – we view concepts ideas of bible from a christian perspective

- Jesus took common terms as a basis of understanding
- Applied it to church so **People would grasp application**
- ekklesia has its own pre-Christian history;
 - To those, whether Jews or Greeks, who first heard it applied to the Christian society it would come with suggestions of familiar things.
 - **"a regularly summoned legislative body, assembly,"**
 - *The ekklesia was the designation of the **whole body of citizens in a free city-state**, "called out of their homes by the kerux, the herald, for the discussion and decision of public business.*
 - **clearly characterized as a political phenomenon**; a verb used for the summons to an army to assemble),
 - applied to the popular assembly of full **Greek citizens** that helped to govern a city or district
 - The citizens who were quite **conscious of their privileged status over against slaves and noncitizens**

- an assembly in which **fundamentally political and judicial decisions were taken** **knew of authority and responsibility to rule**

The early Christians understood themselves as constituting a ekklesia

A free citizen group called out for authority or rule

- They would have perceived themselves as called out by
- and for a special purpose and that their status was a privileged one in Jesus Christ

They would have understood they were not a:

- merely a gathering or a building
- *Ep 2:19 NLT So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are **citizens** along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Eph 2:21 **We** are carefully joined together in him, **becoming a holy temple for the Lord.***

The ekklesia (church) was made up of a group of people who knew the origin of their position

- *Philip 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - Citizenship = rights of conduct, freedoms

Understood they were called out of this world by Jesus Christ

- Were called not to isolation, nor judgmental attitudes
- Nor were they called to be like the world
- **Called out to exercise spiritual dominion** – authority
- It is the re-establishment of God's purpose for man that was originally established in Adam!
- *YLT Matt 16:18'And I also say to thee, that thou art a rock, and upon this rock I will build my assembly, and gates of Hades shall not prevail against it;*

Application

Look at scriptures describing the application of this.

Purpose of the church is to demonstrate the Kingdom (authority, rule reign)

- *Eph 3:10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. NLT*
- *Eph 3:10 [The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere. - AMP*

A. Heavenly — spirit realm

Clarify

- ~~epouranios~~: here it refers to a locale for transcendent things and beings,[8] “the spiritual sphere in which God, Christ, the powers of darkness and the believer exist together.”[9]

B. How?

Because of completed work of Jesus – restoration – now in a place of authority

Eph 1:22,23 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,23 Which is his body...

Jesus' own physical human body is no longer on earth.

Head to the church

Which is his body

Idea of a body is associated with the appearance of an individual

- He is the head of his appearance
- Source
- **But as his body – we are to be his appearance, manifestation – or to from our first lesson – image or representation! – just as Adam was!**

Now we are his body.

- This assembly is to be Jesus' hands reaching out to help the poor, the needy, and the lost.
- We are His feet visiting and bringing a healing and freeing word.
- We represent Jesus in our community in a **visible and tangible way**.
- And since we are His visible extension to our world, we can operate with all his own power and authority.

C. Fullness

But Paul goes father.

The church is not only Christ's body, but also expresses his fullness:

- *AMP Eph 1:23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].*
- "Fullness": pleroma, "that which is full of something."
- **that which fills** or with which a thing is filled:

The Church has power and authority because we are full of Christ! –

- last lesson we discussed new birth experience of Jn 3. Jesus stated we must be born of water and spirit to enter the rule reign – or kingdom
- Spirit birth fills us with the fullness of Jesus Christ!

We are designed to be the full expression of Christ on earth.

- his body, had fullness of godhead in him,
- his body today has his fullness in dwelling and operating

Empowered

Eph 3:20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—AMP

States the consequence of his power working in us

As his body, ekklesia - he can carry out His purpose

In a superabundant way

The phrase:

"Superabundantly" (AMP)

"immeasurably more" (NIV),

"exceedingly abundantly" (KJV), or "abundantly far more" is

huperekeperissou, which means "quite beyond measure,"

- it is the highest form of comparison imaginable,[24]
- a compound word from hyper, “over, above, beyond” + ek, “out of” + perisseuo, “to exceed, to be abundant.”
- When you say someone is “hyper” (or “hyperactive”) you mean they are way **above the normal activity level.**
- “Super abundant” is the idea of this word

Paul reminds us that God is able to work “super abundantly” more than we can even imagine in our wildest prayers.

- We are usually too full of unbelief to pray such bold and “over the top” prayers that put into words what God is able to do.
- But see the location of this power—“according to his power (dunamis) that is at work within us.”

Miraculous

By the restorative work of Jesus, it is this fullness in us that is at work ----

- **“at work”** :erergeo, “work, be at work, **be active, operate, be effective,**”[25]
- from which we get our word “energy.”

There is a power, because of Jesus actively working in our lives
It is there for us to access and manifest His kingdom
It is a power to perform the miraculous!

God’s super abundant power is designed to energize and activate his church with power to accomplish his plan here on earth.

**The ekklesia is a group of individuals
who have been called out
to exercise a spiritual dominion.**

**For this to be accomplished,
they must learn how to allow that indwelling power to manifest itself in their lives.
This is what discipleship is about.**

Faith

Simply put, manifesting this power is by faith

Believing the word, believing what Jesus has said and acting on it

Mark 16:17 These signs shall follow them that believe....

Luke 19:10 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Greater works than these shall you do

As he was sent we are sent

**Walk into situations of life w authority:
Work, school, neighborhood, families**

Speak the mind of God

COMMISSIONING

Jn 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Jn 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

The title of this series: His Plans, Your Purpose

His plans are for you to be his representative to this world

Jesus has restored you back to the image bearer the God intended Adam to be

By the new birth, he has filled you with his fullness and now wants to work through you

Beyond your wildest imagination.

In short, our purpose is to manifest Jesus and His kingdom (authority)

Done through giftings and daily opportunity