

Celebration Services (Sept 23 & 24, 2006)
"Blue Prints for the Church"

Church Covenant Series (Pt. 1)

INTRO Building a House vs. Buying a House

This Series:

- We'll Study God's Blue Prints Over the Next Several Weeks.
- In the End We're Going to Renew the Entire Membership of Lakeview ... Considering Again Our Calling and Our Commitment to That Call

1Tim 3:14-15 ...

- **Larger CONTEXT:**

- **1Tim** a "Pastoral Epistle" written @ 62 AD (to a church ~10 years old)

- Church Life Issues Addressed:

- Warnings @ False Teachers & the Need for Sound Doctrine
- The Roles of Men & Women
- Who Should Lead the Church & How to Qualify Leaders
- Relational Instructions between church members

- **Immediate Inferences** (in this passage):

1. Paul Thought it Necessary for People to Know How They Ought to Behave in Church

NOTE: Important to Note that

- (a) THE N.T. TEACHER of GRACE Often Addresses Behavior.
- (b) There's a Right Way & a Wrong Way to Do Church

2. The Church Plays a Vital and Non-Transferrable Role in God's Purpose on Earth (This is what makes the Church Significant and Our Role in it Significant)

I. A DIFFERENT MANNER OF LIFE

THE PEOPLE IN PAUL'S DAY (Basically 2 Categories) — Religious Jews Heathen Gentiles

Very Diverse People were being CALLED TOGETHER Under a United Purpose — Paul was Giving the Blue Print for the Church to be Able to Function

We Too Are Very Diverse People Called Together...

WE ALL HAVE A CULTURAL & PERSONAL HISTORY

- Religious Background
- Regional Background
- Personality background

All these Diverse People are Called to ONE TASK — "Build the Church" to do so we'll all have to Read & Follow the Same BLUE PRINTS

WARNING: *If we're not biblically informed about this, our tendency will be to shop for a church that "fits us", rather than allowing God to "fit us to the church".*

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

1Tim 3:15 this Call for Behavior is Linked to a Purpose (for the church)

Have you ever stopped to really consider: *What's the Purpose of the Church?*

Is MY Purpose in Life Flowing Out of GOD'S PURPOSE on Earth? or ... Am I Trying to INCLUDE GOD in My Plans, Hopes, or Goals?

- CONVERSION Can Have 2 Different Effects:

- (a) Extreme Life Make-over – The Foundations & "REASONINGS" for my Life Pursuits Get REDEFINED
- (b) Moderate Renovation – God Cleans Up my Moral Deficiency and is Welcomed as an ADVISOR to How I Go About Living the Rest of My Life

What is the "Church" and What is it's Purpose?

- "ekklesia" (Gk.) – ek = out kaleo = to call => "Called Out Ones"
- "hagios" (Gk.) – saints rooted in the word for holy => "set apart ones"

Called Out and Set Apart for What?

THE REVEALING OF GOD'S GLORY — THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF GOD

1Pet 2:9-10

"chosen ... race ... priesthood ... nation ... a people"

– Where Do All These Words Come From? Roots for this passage Gen 12 Deut. 7

Isa 41:8-9 But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; I took you from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off";

Isa 43 ... a people chosen for his glory

"to show forth"

- a LENS through which the Glory of God is Seen
- Why Does Paul Address Our Behavior in the Household of God? Because how we live and relate to each other is making a statement about the excellency of God!

What on Earth is God Doing?

Matt 16:13-20 He is Building His Church

– A Church that Will Proclaim the PERSON & WORK of Christ

“ We can understand the purposes of the church in terms of ministry to God, ministry to believers, and ministry to the world. ” (from *Systematic Theology*, by Wayne Grudem)

– A People Chosen for the Purpose of Ministry to God, to Each Other, and to the World. YOU are chosen for the Purpose of Ministry to God, to Each Other, and to the World

— How Are You Doing in Fulfilling God's Purpose for YOU?

... Do you understand how a "Moderate Renovation" could leave you NEGLECTING ALL 3 of THESE — because they may not be a part of "YOUR PURPOSE" (of being a Lawyer or Artist or Mother, etc.)