

The Church's Calling

THE WORLD

It has been said that recent elections in America show that the issues that move the majority are now sex, stuff and survival. *Sex* - choice with no judgment; *stuff* - economic prosperity and how much government will give and do for me; and *survival* - health care and the global environment. The thinking is that since “mother earth” is viewed as the source of life via evolution, she must be saved or she is lost. Issues of morality, truth and God no longer move the populace.

According to Romans 1, these are the exact results that happen to a society that rejects God in creation. They go from rejection to rationalization (darkness) to religious perversion to reversal of truth to ravishing appetites (homosexuality) and ending with reprobation of the mind (unable to think soundly). They self-destruct and are worthy of the judgment of God.

THE CHURCH

However, the Church - God's work - is called out of the nations by God's saving gospel in Christ. The Church is in contrast to the world. The true Church owns the authority of God in His Son, the risen Lord Jesus, as revealed in the written Word. Therefore, true believers own one woman for one man, “until death do us part” is the pattern of God's creation - *purity*. They own that God will supply our needs as we work - *security*. They own that while the earth is God's tool of sustaining life, that God is the source of life, promising the sustaining of the planet - *perpetuity*. (Gen. 8:22 / Heb. 1:3 / Col. 1:16).

The Church's calling is not to change the world. What is our calling? We should be captivated with Christ and what He calls us to do. Scripture reveals a specific calling for the Church in two major spheres: *to* the world – and - *in* the Church.

To the world:

The Gospel. The world is destined for destruction. But first, the Church is to “*go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*” for “*God so loved the world*”. All who repent by faith in the Lord Jesus – regardless of gender, racial, social, cultural or religious heritage will be equally saved and blessed. (Mark 16:15 / Col. 3:11, Gal. 3:28).

In the Church:

The world has Satan as its deceptive god and crucified God's only Son. But the Church in contrast is created exclusively for God. Uniquely existing here for His Name, the Church is to “come together” and display 7 major things that God doesn't receive from the world.

1. Glory. The world, “*glorified him not as God, neither were thankful*”. The redeemed Church offers up His worthy honor and praise in the Son's Name. The Church is where no man is to glory in His presence (no titles, names or accolades given to mere man) but “*He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord*” – only. (1Cor. 1-4).

2. *Holiness*. “*The temple of God is holy*”. Holiness is separation and cleansing from all things that are offensive to God so that we can be exclusively for His use and pleasure. As a result the Church fellowship is not an open house for all lifestyles, ideologies or traditions. It is set apart (sanctified) unto the Lord alone. Its practices and fellowship are to be as God’s holy temple. (1Cor. 3-5). The assembled Church is not viewed in Scripture as a doctor’s office, a counseling center, a gospel mission, a psychologist office, a social club, a happy hour, or a theater with drama and musicals. “*Ye are the temple of the living God*”. (2Cor. 6:16).

3. *Priestly Offerings*. The temple is where the priests (holy men) came into God’s presence to offer up sacrifices pleasing unto God. Now **all** believers are holy saints by His cleansing blood having the status of a “*holy priesthood*”. Unlike the world, which is not thankful, this holy priesthood is to bring spiritual sacrifices of praise, good deeds, service and material offerings unto the Lord. The church meeting is to be a time where there is to be full liberty for all believers (a plurality) to participate as priests through the enabling of the Lord Himself – according to His order. (1Peter 2 / 1Cor. 12-14).

4. *Truth*. In a world that is deceived and blinded by the father of lies (the devil), the Church is uniquely “*the pillar and ground of the truth*”. As we know and hold His “*word of truth*” we overcome the deceptions that distort the truth of God and His grace. Because of the continuing assault of Satanic evil, the Church needs to constantly “*contend for the faith*” while “*rightly dividing the word of truth*”. (John 8:44, Jude, 2Tim. 2:15).

5. *Remembrance*. In a world that focuses on man and his accomplishments the Church is taken up with Christ Jesus and His great work of redemption. When the early church assembled on the first day of the week it kept the Lord’s Supper. This displays the great act of Christ - His death and blood sacrifice unto God for us. “*This do in remembrance of me*”. (1Cor. 11).

6. *Headship*. The broken world system started by Adam and Eve was when their roles were reversed. Sin, sorrow and separation from God followed. Satan was the architect of rebellion. But salvation is because of the Son’s willingness to submit. So the Church is to be a microcosm of God’s submission. “*The head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man*”. What will this look like? According to the Lord’s commandments, it will involve man’s head being uncovered and the woman’s being covered when praying or prophesying. Amazingly, the angels are watching. In the church meeting every man has an oral responsibility while every woman is to be silent. (1Cor. 11/14).

7. *Growth*. The Church as the body of Christ is to be growing - like a normal body does. But the emphasis in the Bible’s epistles is not on numbers but on spiritual quality. As we use the various spiritual gifts He gives and are involved, we will have the mental maturity to overcome Satanic deceptions. Thus we will “*grow up into him [Christ Jesus the Head] in all things*” as every member of His body speaks the truth in love. Our actions and lifestyle will be good and holy produced by the Spirit within us. (Eph. 4).

* In this changing world, may each believer in Christ the Lord, understand and have zeal for our calling that changes not – until He comes. Will you fully embrace your holy and heavenly calling for the Lord Jesus Christ?