

Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: July 7, 2024

Sermon: What We Believe: The Church

Preacher: Brad

Primary Text: Ephesians 2:11-22



SUMMARY

Big Idea: The Church is the FRUIT of God's Mission and the MEANS of God's Mission

Planned before the foundation of the world, God has been at work since the Fall to redeem a people, from among all peoples, to himself in one body, for His name's sake. Through the OT, this work was prefigured and prophesied with God's choosing of Israel. In the fullness of time, His work has been realized through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and forgiveness of sins being proclaimed in His name to all nations. Fulfilling God's promises, the church was birthed in Acts 2. Through Acts we see the spread of the church. Such multiplication continues, as the mission of God continues. The church is both the fruit of God's mission which will endure forever, and the means through which His mission continues until Christ returns. Our response to His mission is to receive, walk in, and proclaim the Peace he has purchased.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read: Ephesians 2:11-22

1. Summarize these verses in your own words. What is the main point and how does Paul develop and support it?
2. How do these verses relate to Ephesians 2:1-10?
3. How does Ephesians 2 help us understand Who the church is and How the church came to be?
4. When you think about the gospel, salvation, and the church, where do you see a proclivity in your own heart to think in ways that are individualistic? Consumeristic?
 - a. What other obstacles hinder our ability to walk in and enjoy the peace that Christ has purchased and won?
 - b. How do these verses function to transform and renew your mind?
5. How do these verses fuel and inform your love for God? How do they grow your love for one another?

Read: Ephesians 3:7-13

6. Consider Paul's role as a "minister of the gospel"
 - a. In what ways was his role unique?
 - b. In what ways is his role shared by all who are in the church? (refer to 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
7. God has saved and assembled his church, for what purpose has he done that?
 - a. How does that purpose relate to your understanding of what it means to be a member in the church?
8. "God is all about making invisible, spiritual truths, visible, known, and revealed." What does this mean for you this week - with your family, with your job, with your church, with your neighbor?