

GOD'S SOLUTION: THE CHURCH? REALLY!

Ephesians 1:2-23, 1 Corinthians 1:1-4

Think of all the ills, troubles, and problems that people face today. How does God respond to all these scenarios? He has one answer...the Church!

“The Christian church is the only society in the world in which membership is based upon the qualification that the candidate shall be unworthy of membership.” **Charles Clayton Morrison**

“If we ever forget our basic charter – ‘My house is a house of prayer’ = we might as well shut the church doors.”
James S. Stewart

“The church is a community of the works and words of Jesus.” **James S. Stewart**

“The business of the Church is to demonstrate God.” **Vance Havner**

“The source and origin of the Church is the Free love of God.” **John Calvin**

“We don’t go to church; we are the church.” **Ernest Southcott**

“God never intended His church to be a refrigerator in which to preserve perishable piety. He intended it to be an incubator in which to hatch out converts.” **F. Lincicome**

“The highest expression of the will of God in this age is the church which he purchased with his own blood.” **A.W. Tozer**

“The church is: a conspiracy of love for a dying world, a spy mission into enemy occupied territory ruled by the powers of evil; a prophet from God with the greatest news the world has ever heard, the most life changing and most revolutionary institution that has existed on earth.” **Peter Kreeft**

“Too many church services begin at eleven o’clock sharp and end at twelve o’clock dull.” **Vance Havner**

- Remarkable statements concerning the Church:
 - The Church: Those who are consecrated, purified, and made Holy in Christ Jesus.

1 Paul, summoned by the will *and* purpose of God to be an apostle (special messenger) of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, **2** To the church (assembly) of God which is in Corinth, to those consecrated *and* purified *and* made holy in Christ Jesus, [who are] selected *and* called to be saints (God’s people), together with all those who in any place call upon *and* give honor to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace (favor and spiritual blessing) be to you and [heart] peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God at all times for you because of the grace (the favor and spiritual blessing) of God which was bestowed on you in Christ Jesus. **1**

Corinthians 1:1-4 NASB

- We, the Church, are the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. **Ephesians 1:22-23 NASB**

(God) has appointed Him (Jesus) universal and supreme Head of the Church, which is His body, the completeness of Him who everywhere fills the universe with Himself...**v22-23 Weymouth**

He (God) gave (Jesus) as Head over all things to the Church, which is of such a nature to be His body, the fullness of the One who constantly is filling all things with all things. **V22-23 Wuest**

- We the Church are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. **Ephesians 2:19-22 NASB**

In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit. **Ephesians 2:22 AMPC**

- He proclaims His manifold wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies through the Church.

[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. **Ephesians 3:10 AMPC**

To me who am less than the least of all God's people has this work been graciously entrusted to proclaim the Gentiles the Good News of the exhaustless wealth of Christ, and to show all men in a clear light what my stewardship is. It is the stewardship of the truth which from all the Ages lay concealed in the mind of God, the Creator of all things – concealed in order that the Church might now be used to display to the powers and authorities in the heavenly realms the innumerable aspects of God's wisdom. Such was the eternal purpose which He had formed in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have this bold and confident access through our faith in Him. **Ephesians 3:8-11 Weymouth**

- He is desirous of walking among us to bring glory to Himself through the Church and Christ Jesus our Lord.

To Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. **Ephesians 3:21 NASB**

- He is able to do exceedingly beyond our ability to ask, think, or imagine (us individually or as the Church) by virtue of His power that works within us.

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]. **Ephesians 3:20 AMPC**

Now to the One who is able to do beyond all things, superabundantly beyond and over and above those things we are asking for...**Ephesians 3:20 Wuest**