



## The Church

### Lesson 4: A Peculiar People & the Corporate Anointing & Blessing

#### A Peculiar People

#### 1. Peculiar people make up the church.

##### 1 Peter 2:5-10

The New King James Version says – “His own special people”.

The King James Version says –“peculiar people”.

Definition of PECULIAR: \_\_\_\_\_

Peculiar does not mean “odd” or “funny”.

Peculiar refers to believers as being \_\_\_\_\_

The church is special, precious, of unique value, and set apart by God for a specific purpose.

#### 2. The church is peculiar in its \_\_\_\_\_

In the Old Testament certain food was prohibited that made God’s people peculiar in their diet.

In the New Testament the Word of God is compared to being food for our spirits.

##### 1 Peter 2:2

##### John 4:34

#### 3. The church is peculiar in its \_\_\_\_\_

##### Philippians 3:20

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Definition of AMBASSADOR: A diplomatic agent assigned to a foreign government as the resident representative of his or her own government.

The world is not our home. Our citizenship is in heaven. We are ambassadors on this earth.

An ambassador has access to \_\_\_\_\_

The full power of heaven is backing you up as you are an ambassador on the earth.

**4. The church is peculiar in its** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 4:24**

**5. The church is peculiar in** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

When two oxen are yoked for the purpose of plowing a field it is important that they are equally yoked.

The two animals must be of the same size and strength.

If they are unequally yoked, of different sizes and strengths, the field will not be plowed properly.

When a believer gets married, they should be careful to be equally yoked with another believer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are comfortable with darkness, something is wrong with your light.

**6. The church is peculiar in** \_\_\_\_\_

In the Old Testament the Israelites were easy to distinguish because of their dress.

**Numbers 15:38, 39**

In the New Testament believers have a peculiar spiritual dress.

**1 Peter 3:3, 4**

**Isaiah 61:10****Isaiah 61:3**

Ephesians 6:13-17 describe the armor of God.

The Corporate Anointing and Blessing

**1. We have to recognize that** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 5:23-27**

When giving instructions about marriage in Ephesians 5, Paul tells us that Jesus loves the church, laid down His life for her, cleansed her, cares for her and becomes one with her. Then Paul says husbands should do the same for their wives.

If you love Jesus, you must love whom He loves. He loves the lost. He loves the hurting. He loves those who follow Him. He loves the church.

**2. The church is made up of people.**

The church is made up of \_\_\_\_\_

Pastors and leaders make mistakes.

The church is an organization of imperfect people who are accepting of other imperfect people. These imperfect people begin to understand they have a purpose, and together, try to make a difference in the world.

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_

"The church really hurt me."

There is no such thing as the church hurting someone.

It is like saying:

- "The bank really hurt me."
- "Restaurants have wounded me."
- "The gym hurt my feelings."

It is not the entities or organizations that have hurt us – it's the people in them. The people who work in restaurants have let me down. I've managed to find others places to eat.

There are people who work out at my gym that could very well be hypocrites.

If you have been hurt, violated, or abused in a church – forgive those people so that you can continue to grow in your faith.

#### **4. There is no “perfect church”.**

All churches need to have some accountability. We need to be confident enough to hear the criticisms . . .

However, because you see a flaw in a church you don’t approve of – it is not necessary to add your voice to the growing sound of church bashing that is growing in America today.

#### **5.**

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It carries no weight to say ‘I love the global church’ but have no commitment or dedication to a local church.

It is like someone saying they play professional basketball but they are just not part of any one particular team. It makes no sense.

God plans to use the church to reveal His awesome plan to humanity.

#### **Ephesians 3:7-11 – New Living Translation**

**Ephesians 3:7**      *By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News.*

**Ephesians 3:8**      *Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.*

**Ephesians 3:9**      *I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.*

**Ephesians 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.*

**Ephesians 3:11**      *This was His eternal plan, which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

His intent was that the church bring the Gospel to the world in the face of demonic pressure and resistance. The local church is the only hope for the world.

### **Matthew 16:18 – God’s Word**

*. . . on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of hell will not overpower it.*

#### **6. You have been saved and placed into something much bigger than you.**

What does all of this mean for us today? – Your salvation is more than your personal decision to follow Christ.

You have become a part of something that involves corporate power, life, and blessing.

Your salvation is not a “me” deal. It is a “we” deal.

We have concentrated so much on our “personal” salvation that we have forgotten that there is something much greater that God has called us to.

You have been called into covenant with other believers – to be a part of something bigger than just yourself.

### **Isaiah 53:4**

### **Psalm 107:19**

#### **7. What you think and believe will ultimately be revealed in how you live.**

This is true for every area of life, \_\_\_\_\_

What we think and believe about church, influences the way we live and act.

That is why the Word of God tells us that we need our minds renewed.

“Every battle is won or lost before it is ever fought.” – The Art of War

Personally this is true. In the church this is true.

Do you truly believe that as a Christian you are destined to win?

Do we truly believe the commission we have been given as a Church will be victorious?

The example of the children of Israel coming out of Egypt:

- The goal was not to get them out of Egypt.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- It is important to understand that they either all went in, or none went in.

- The Promised Land is not just about personal destiny. It is about corporate destiny.

Generally, in the church we have developed an individualized thinking like this – God will heal me. God will prosper me. He will deliver me. He will do all of this through my personal faith.

Although this is true and Biblical, we often forget this truth – There are some victories that will only be secured when you and I link up together.

You can go a long way on your own, but you cannot go all the way on your own.

### **Numbers 13:27-33**

The Promised Land could have been taken.

We have a mandate from God to take our city, nation, and world. But only “we” can do it.

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This is why the devil has sown things into the minds of people about the church.

- It is not looked at as an important thing for a believer to be a part of a local church.
- As a matter-of-fact, you are free to change churches every few months or just start your own little group of disgruntled believers.
- People say, “I love Jesus. I just don’t want to join a church.”

The personal decision to follow Christ should have moved you to corporate involvement.