

The
People
of
God

in Mission
in Community
in Living the Dream

The People of God: Community

Core Verse: Matthew 28:18-20 (in line with John 14:15 – if you love me you will keep my commandments)

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“Give yourself to the Church. You that are members of the Church have not found it perfect and I hope that you feel almost glad that you have not. If I had never joined a Church till I had found one that was perfect, I would never have joined one at all! And the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect Church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us... All who have first given themselves to the Lord, should, as speedily as possible, also give themselves to the Lord’s people. How else is there to be a Church on the earth? If it is right for anyone to refrain from membership in the Church, it is right for everyone, and then the testimony for God would be lost to the world!

As I have already said, the Church is faulty, but that is no excuse for your not joining it, if you are the Lord’s. Nor need your own faults keep you back, for the Church is not an institution for perfect people, but a sanctuary for sinners saved by Grace, who, though they are saved, are still sinners and need all the help they can derive from the sympathy and guidance of their fellow Believers. The Church is the nursery for God’s weak children where they are nourished and grow strong. It is the fold for Christ’s sheep—the home for Christ’s family.”

Historical Facts about Ephesus:

- City inhabitants were approx. 600'000
- Important Commercial & Port City
- Grandiose Theater which looked west to the port
- Temple of the goddess Artemis which featured a eunuch priest assisted by virgin women
- Had two Agoras, a regular one and a State Agora

We see three things about the church in Ephesus:

- It's Birth
- It's Life
- It's Death

The Beginning of Ephesus: Acts 19:1-20

Acts 19:1-7

- Paul arrives at Ephesus, approximately 53AD
- Overall historically this church has varsity leadership
- We read scripture, John wrote scripture
- I read and say Jesus says, John said, when we walked here or there he said to me

Acts 19:8-10

- Opposition shows up in the form of unbelief and speaking evil of the church
- Paul pulls away to another place and spends two years
- All the residents of Asia heard the Gospel message

Acts 19:21-28

- The economy is flipped on its head
- A riot breaks out

Book of Ephesians – a.k.a. Prison Letter by Paul Written around 60-61AD, roughly 5 years later

Chapter 3:14-19

- He wants them to grow in God's love
- The people of God grow in affection for Him

1st & 2nd Timothy – Written roughly 10 years later

1st Timothy

Chapter 6:3-5

- Watch out for false doctrine and people who are in constant friction with the truth
- Watch out for people are causing dissensions

2nd Timothy

Chapter 3:1-7

- Difficult times ahead, reading this reminds us of America

1st John – Written 80-90AD, were now roughly 30 years from the Acts 19 events

Chapter 1:5-2:6

- God is light, he is not hidden
- Watch how we walk: style of life
- Transparency is important, we are sinful people
- Be devoted to the truth and living it out daily

Revelation – Written 93AD, now we're 40 years from the events in Acts

Chapter 2:1-3

- Two components: Enduring & Doctrine
- They can spot false teachers/apostles far away

Chapter 2:4-5

- Endurance and Doctrine alone are not enough

Acts 19:11-18

- Extolling the name of Jesus, this is a holy fear
- Confessing their sins, their deeds and repenting from them

The Religious Trap:

- Getting caught up in being knowledgeable and that type of dependency.
- It's forgetting your need for Jesus and the need to be transparent about whom you are, your struggles.

Three Things of a Functional, Growing and Maturing Church

- Extol who Jesus is, make much of, point to Jesus
- An enduring people, patient endurance
- Preach the doctrine, standing firm