

God Speaks Through the Church

Unit 6 Day 5 of Experiencing God

Introduction:

- History behind the English word “church” in the Bible
 1. Once absent from all English translations – the word of choice was “c_____” or “assembly”
 2. First appears in the King James Version (1611)
 - a. This translation was c_____ by King James
 - b. The English word referred to a b_____
- Biblically, the Greek word translated as church is used 114 times
 1. Every time it refers to p_____
 2. The word literally means “c_____ out ones”
- God speaks through the church. How?

You have an individual and a corporate identity – member

- Two key words used in both Rom 12:4,5 and 1Cor 12:12,18,27
 1. M_____
 2. B_____
- Your individual identity
 1. When first saved you became a c_____ of God (John 1:12)
 2. You can personally come before God without anyone else’s h_____ (1Tim 2:5; Heb 4:12).
 3. Although there are 7 billion people in the world, God is p_____ with each believer (Rev 2:17).
 4. This, however, is not sufficient
- Your corporate identity
 1. Both passages emphasize the importance of being c_____ to the body
 - a. We are automatically connected to the universal body of Christ upon receiving Christ as our Lord and Savior. This is done by the S_____ (1Cor 12:13).
 - b. We each have to connect ourselves to a l_____ body of believers.
 2. If we are not connected corporately to a local body, how can we hear what God is saying through the church?

You have an individual and corporate duty – mutual encouragement

- Both passages emphasize each member f_____ in the body.
 1. We do NOT decide what p_____ of the body we are but must allow God to tell us where He has placed us (1Cor 12:18).
 2. We DO decide to f_____ in the body (Rom 12:6; Rom 1:11,12)
- We live in a selfish society - “What’s in it for me?”
 - P_____
 - M_____
 - C_____

- We were saved from self and so should be selfless (Lk 9:23)
 1. JFK – “Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.”
 2. Ask not what is your spouse doing for you, but what are you doing for your spouse?
 3. Ask not what is the church doing for me, but what am I doing for the church?
 - a. The local church is C_____ body. (1Cor 12:27) and therefore LBC is not my church but His. The church does not belong to me but I belong to the church.
 - b. The head of the local church is C_____ (Col 1:18).

Together we function as Christ’s body – He directs (Col 1:18)

- How does this work out, practically speaking?
 1. We engage in mutual e_____ (serving, teaching, leading, mercy, giving, helping, counseling, encouraging, etc)
 2. The results will be spiritual g_____ and/or spiritual life
 3. God will speak to individuals through the church body and will speak to the body giving us direction.
- Examples
 1. How have you received encouragement in the church?
 2. How have you given encouragement in the church?
 3. How has God spoken to you through this church?
 4. How has God spoken to this church body?