

BEING THE CHURCH WITHOUT BEING IN THE CHURCH (Apr 19, 2020)

I Corinthians 3:9, 16

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

INTRO:

****We have a church building, and we are thankful for it, but we must remember that meeting inside a church building does not make us the church! It is when Christ meets with us in our hearts and souls that makes us the church! When we carry out our Christian duties that is when we are truly being the church!!**

****Like you, I miss meeting in the church, but praise God if we are saved, we are still the church. We can still be the church without being in the church! We are God's building! We are God's temple! Therefore, we must continue being the church without being in the church!**

****Meeting in the church parking lot for a drive-in service and for front porch preaching is still being the church!**

****Praying for one another is how we can still be the church and is exactly what we must do in order to be the church!**

****Calling or texting one another and encouraging one another is how we can still be the church. We must do this in order to continue being the church!**

****Taking someone their groceries or running errands for them (even if it is not a fellow church member) is what we must do to be the church!**

****Send scripture or godly texts, emails, or facebook posts is what we should do to be the church!**

****Witnessing to people and telling them about Jesus is what we must do to be the church!**

HOW CAN WE BE THE CHURCH?

1. Maintain Your Connection

****Stay Connected to Christ, to the Comforter, to the Christians, and to the Church.**

2. Maintain Your Commitment

****Stay committed to the Savior and to the Scripture.**

3. Maintain Your Communion

****Communion with God means you Keep Close and you Keep Communicating**

4. Maintain Your Caring

****If you stop caring, you will stop being the church! So you must make sure you keep on caring about the Services, the Saints, the Sinners, the Savior and the Spirit!**

5. Maintain Your Celebration

****Keep celebrating and praising God for His Goodness, His Greatness, and His Glory!**

****As saved people, we are God's people, and that means we are God's building and God's temple and that we must continue Being the Church without Being in the Church!**

****I want to elaborate on that thought!**

I. WE HAVE A CALLING TO BE THE CHURCH

I Corinthians 1:26-28 26For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

A. We Have A Call To Sacrifice

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

****It takes a living sacrifice of ourselves if we are going to be holy and acceptable unto the Lord!**

1. We Must Sacrifice Our Own Ways
2. We Must Sacrifice Our Own Will

****If we are going to be the church than doing what we want to do will not work! We must do what God wants us to do. It's about doing things His Way and doing His Will!**

****When is the last time you did what God said to do according to His will?**

B. We Have A Call To Submit

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1. We can find He's Pleased when we submit to Him!
2. We can find His Purpose when we submit to Him!

****If we are going to be the church we must take hold of the graceful Call God has given us and make the most of it!**

II. WE HAVE A CHOICE TO BE THE CHURCH

****It is possible to be saved and still choose not to be the church that God wants us to be! That's the wrong choice and a bad choice to make though! I want to encourage you to make the right choice and choose to be the church in this modern unsettling time we are in!**

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

A. Our Hearts Must Be Wrapped Around The Choice To Be The Church

1. If our Hearts are not in it, we will end up Quitting the Savior!
2. If our Hearts are not in it, we will end up Quenching the Spirit!

**The Lord will cause us to be overtaken with blessings if we will choose to be the church even though we cannot be in the church!

B. Our Heads Must Be Wrapped Around This Choice To Be The Church

**In other words we got to get our heads in the game and get our minds on being the church and stay focused and faithful in that!

**We must have the mind of Christ in order to be the church, and that means we must . . .

1. Mind the Scripture in order to have the mind of Christ.
2. Mind the Spirit in order to have the mind of Christ.

**Anything we try to do without the Scripture or the Spirit backing us up is not of God! There's way too much being done in the name of the Lord today that God is nowhere close to being in it! We cannot be the church if we are not minding the Scripture or minding the Spirit!

**If we are going to be the church we must take hold of the good Choice God has given us and make the most of it!

III. WE HAVE A CHANCE TO BE THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

**We have a limited chance and a last chance to take this opportunity that God has given us and to make the most of it and to show the world that we are the church by being the church!

**Instead of church people taking the chance God has given us to be the church, there are more people in the church world arguing about the Pandemic and who is right and who is wrong. God's people are wasting their time arguing and debating instead of redeeming the time and taking advantage of the opportunity to be the church!

**Let's take this opportunity and this chance we have right now and let us be the church!

A. This is our chance to be the church and Exercise Our Faith!

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him . . .

1. We will accomplish nothing without faith!
2. We will attain nothing without faith!

**The joy of being the church cannot be Reached or Realized without faith in the Lord!

B. This is our chance to be the church and Exterminate Our Fears!

**Everybody is fearful at some point when they are faced with serving the Lord and being the church, but the Lord said again and again, "Fear not."

**We must overcome our fears! We must seek God and reach up to Him in faith with determination that we are going to depend upon God's Grace and upon God's Guidance!

1. Depend upon God's Grace and Be Bold in Being God's Church!

2. Depend upon God's Guidance and Be Brave in Being God's Church!

**If we don't take this chance to be the church, then we haven't submitted to the Savior; instead, we will submit to Sinfulness, to Selfishness, and to Satan.

**If we are going to be the church we must take hold of the great Chance God has given us and make the most of it!

CLOSE

**You and I as children of God have a Calling, have a Choice, and have a Chance to Be The Church!!

**Will you take this seriously and be the church in these last days we are living in?

**Will you maintain your connection, your commitment, your communion, your caring, and your celebration in order to be the church in these last days?