

I Love My Church

Part I

Own It

Esther 4:14 NIV

¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

I. Introduction

- a. The goal of this series is to help us:
 - i. Understand why we as Christians participate in church.
 - ii. Gain deeper understanding of the role of the church in our cities and personal lives.
 - iii. Learn God's opinion of the church.
 - 1. When we have the same perspective of the church as God, we will love the church more like he does.

II. Perspective

- a. We need to understand God's perspective of the church to ensure that our mindset is correct concerning it.
 - i. Sometimes people think the devil is our greatest enemy.
 - ii. However, the greatest enemy that we would face is the wrong mindset.
- b. We do not naturally see how God sees.
 - i. Over time, after learning God's perspective from reading the Bible, we can see more like God does.
 - ii. Also, when we don't understand God's perspective, we can trust and have faith that God's way is best for us.
- c. Once our mind is transformed to be more like Christ's, we will experience life more peacefully, like God intends for us.
 - i. When our mind is renewed, we have the tools to overcome life's struggles.

Isaiah 55:8 NIV

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

III. The Bible's View on Church

- a. The work church is derived from the Greek word *ekklesia* which means assembly, called out ones.
 - i. We have been called out of the world to do something great as the family of God.

1. We are called to come together to encourage each other, worship together and build each other up.
- b. The Bible speaks about the universal church and the local church.
 - i. The universal church consists of everyone who is a believer.
 1. A believer is someone who has confessed with their mouth and believed in their heart that Jesus is Lord.
 - ii. The local church refers to local congregations of believers who assemble together regularly.
- c. Therefore, we are supposed to be the church and belong to a church.
 - i. When we belong to a church, we have the opportunity to unite with other believers to impact a positive change on the earth.
 1. The church impacts positive change on the earth through leading people to the power of Christ.
 - a. The power of Christ provides salvation, healing, deliverance and overflow to all who puts their faith in God.

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

I Corinthians 11:18

¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

IV. Owning the Church

- a. God desires our involvement with church to move from a casual relationship to one with personal ownership.
- b. Ownership is a perspective when one has a personal investment in something.
 - i. When someone is personally invested in something, they have a greater motivation to succeed.