

## **Celebrating the Church...Who You Are!**

Pastor Kent Gravley

Four realities of who you are:

1. you are God's possession
2. you are the special presence of God
3. you are spiritual relatives needing one another to fulfill the will of God for your lives
4. you are God's voice to the world, His primary means of communicating His truth to the world.

1. You are God's possession, His valued and purposed people.

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

- Acts 20:28

“and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

- 2 Cor. 5:15

“The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its master.”

- P.T Forsyth

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

- 1 Cor. 3:16

“God is of course omnipresent, but he is uniquely present in every Christian gathering as his Spirit indwells believers.”

- Dr. Craig Blomberg

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

- Mt. 18:20

3. You are spiritual relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ, and God has designed it so that you need one another to accomplish God's will for your lives.

“The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.”

- John Wesley

“Turning our lives over to Christ also means turning our lives over to each other.”

- Dr. Gene Getz

“There is something very defective in our highly individualistic view of what salvation is all about.

Salvation never occurs in isolation.”

- Stan Grenz

“One of the more unsettling revelations to most Christ followers, particularly in light of our fierce individualism, is how many of the marks of a Christian involve other people. You cannot truly follow Christ apart from community...”

- Dr. James Emery White

“As each of you has received a spiritual gift from the Lord, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of the diverse graces God has given to us.”

- 1 Pet. 4:10

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you-- that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.”

- Rom. 1:11-12

1) You are God's possession, His valued and purposed people;

2) You are where God's presence especially is.

3) you are Christ's body, related to one another and needing one another.

4. You are God's voice to the world, the primary means He has chosen to communicate truth about Himself.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

- 1 Pet. 2:9

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may

see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

-1 Pet. 2:12

It is both by our words and by our deeds that people are drawn to Christ.

1. You belong to God and are deeply valued by Him and respond by living your lives to His glory.
2. When you gather God is especially present, and you should show up expecting Him to show up!
3. You are related to one another as brothers and sisters and God has designed your salvation so that you need each other!
4. You are God’s voice to the world; the primary means He has chosen to communicate truth about Himself. We speak in words and deeds.