

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 8-3-25
Christianity 103 – Message 2 Part 8
Life among believers.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The disciples are teaching us that understanding is not a prerequisite for obedience, but trust is.
- 2) We know that fear came upon every soul.
- 3) There is a biblical fear that is developed as you walk with the Lord.
 - a) Proverbs 19:23 –
 - b) Hebrew word for fear is, “yirah” – a profound reverence for life that comes from correctly seeing. Seeing what?
- 4) This fear, this wisdom we are pursuing begins with humility.
- 5) Our pride and arrogance will keep us from the Lord.
- 6) You will not fear the Lord from a distance.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Why did God choose the word “church” to describe the gathering of His people?

2. Church – What does it mean?

a. Jesus told Peter.

- 1) Matthew 16:18 –
- 2) Matthew 18:17 –
 - a) Jesus will build His Church. He is the ROCK!
- 3) The Church has been commissioned with the task of carrying forward what Jesus started.

b. “Called Out.”

- 1) The word “church” comes from the Greek word, “ekklesia” which means an assembly or called out ones.
 - a) The root meaning does not speak of a building but of people.
- 2) To be “called out” is to represent Christ to the world by being Christ-like to them.

c. “Called Out” – what does this mean for me?

- 1) What were these new believers noticing about themselves?
 - a) There is a separation now because of faith and that separation indicates a new direction that will further validate this separation.
- 2) This separation serves two purposes:
 - a) Protection of self.
 - b) Promoting the Gospel through a changed life.
- 3) Our lives are no longer governed by the world or by us but by the Lord.
 - a) II Corinthians 6:14-18 –
 - b) “unequally yoked” –

d. Paul applied this truth as a part of a larger message.

- 1) He discouraged them from being in an unequal partnership with unbelievers because believers and unbelievers are opposites.
 - a) Notice – Jesus has nothing in common with “Belial” – a reference to satan.
 - b) “unequally yoked” – can be applied to business relationships and marriage.

e. This principle is to be a part of every believer’s life. Did you know this?

- 1) II Corinthians 6:17 –
- 2) This is not a negative thing. This is a sacred honor.

f. If you choose to do this, then what does it look like?

- 1) "Come out from among them (choice) and be ye separate..." you choose to separate yourself from evil and to dedicate yourself to the service of God.
 - 2) When it comes to being dedicated to the service of God, people will recognize that by what you say "NO" to.
 - 3) Applicational thought – It may be the world struggles with knowing or recognizing what evil is because it has been our responsibility to reveal that by our behavior.
3. Functioning. A new word for you to learn.
- a. What are they doing?
 - 1) These "called out" ones who are now the church are learning and applying what they are learning.
 - 2) To "function" means – the doing, executing or performing of anything; discharge; as the function of a calling or office.
 - a) What is your calling as a believer?
 - b) It is the "called out" one who becomes a servant and starts serving as –
 - c) "Functioning" is each day - at church, work, home. Everywhere God takes you.
 - b. Examples:
 - 1) Verse 42 –
 - 2) Verse 45 –
 - 3) Verse 46 –
 - 4) There is evidence here of this new church functioning as a church.
4. Today's Take Away:
- a. We are learning about ourselves and this church.
 - 1) We are "called out" –
 - 2) We are to "function" –
 - b. Are you willing to accept this truth as a Christian?