

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Being The Image Of God

Ephesians 3:8-11

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Many Christians have quietly accepted the mistaken idea that heaven will be a place of rest without responsibility, as if salvation means freedom from purpose or duty. This view, though comforting to some, is far from the biblical picture of life in God's kingdom. Scripture never portrays eternity as endless leisure or escape from meaningful work. Instead, it describes believers as rulers, priests, and co-workers with Christ in God's renewed creation.

God did not save us to simply to wait for heaven. He called the church to share His rule and wisdom. We are His council and His image in the world. As elders once judged at the city gate and priests once served in the temple, believers now join Christ in restoring God's order and presence on earth. The church is God's living temple and governing family, where heaven and earth meet again through Jesus.

CALLED TO DISPLAY GOD'S WISDOM

Ephesians 3:10

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. NLT

God makes His wisdom known "through the church." The verb "might now be made known" is shows that the church is His instrument. The audience is "rulers and authorities" in the heavenly places. Heaven watches the church.

The ESV calls it manifold wisdom. "Manifold" means many-colored or richly varied. God's wisdom unfolds in a way that, seen in a multiethnic, multi-gifted church that loves in truth.

1 Corinthians 6:3 - Don't you realize that we will judge angels? NLT

In the ancient city gates, elders settled cases to protect peace. Paul says the saints will even judge angels. If you will sit with Christ to judge bigger things later, then practice holy judgment and peacemaking in smaller issues now.

Ask yourself, "Where do I avoid hard conversations that would show God's wisdom and bring peace to my family, my friends, or my church?"

CALLED TO PRIESTHOOD IN A NEW EDEN

Revelation 5:9b-10

...you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
ESV

In the ancient Near East, a king set an image of himself in a temple to mark his rule. God placed His image in Eden with the goal of extending His rule throughout the earth.

Manners and customs: Priests offered incense at set times, kept lamps lit, and taught God's law. There is not a time in these days on earth when millions of people are not praying, keeping the light of the gospel bright. We host God's presence in the world.

Like a greenhouse creates the right environment for life to grow. The church creates space for heaven and earth to meet, where broken people grow strong and holy.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession." (1 Peter 2:9, ESV)

"And raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6, ESV)

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16, ESV)

Conclusion

The church is not only a crowd of rescued people. We are God's governing family in training, and God's living temple on earth. In the Spirit we serve as priests. Let us practice heaven's ways now, so the world may see God's beauty.