

United/Unrivaled: the Peripheral Church

Sermon: United and Unrivaled: The Peripheral Church
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At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. Ephesians 1:22-23 MSG

An Unrivaled Church is not a Peripheral Church

peripheral: secondary, fringe, minor, marginal, irrelevant, superficial, non-essential

Ephesians 1:18-23

A body brings identity to an entity - the church is God's plan to tangibly live out His essence

Satan wanted to destroy the body of Jesus through crucifixion and now he wants to destroy the body of Jesus through isolation

Experience and Express the Essence of Jesus

Matthew 16:17,18

Church (ekklesia): Assembly; distinct, unique gathering

Being the Church requires gathering

An unrivaled church gathers around purpose and presence more than politics and preference

-A solo faith leads to so-so faith

-A solo faith will be a low-glow faith

It will take risk to re-engage

Satan wants the church to be pushed to the peripheral through being:

divided

distracted

disconnected

discouraged

defamed

QUESTIONS:

1-Are you *building* your life, your philosophy, your world view on God's Word or are you just borrowing from it?

2-How would you define the importance of us living out our faith right now? What aspects of our faith could change the world in which we are living? Read Ephesians 1:18-23 What encouragement do you find about the inheritance of our faith in these verses?

3-How has preference kept you from gathering with others as the church? What preference is keeping you from joining community right now?

5-Share with the others in your group, or with one other person the impact gathering as the church (small and/or large) has had in your life. Read Acts 2:42-27 What aspect of community is God calling you to pursue?

Pray: God, help our focus shift from "what we can't do" to "what we can do". Give us wisdom and courage as we re-engage! May we be the full expression of the essence of Jesus in our lives every day!