

God & The Church #1 – Ephesians 3:9-11, 20-21

(God Series: Lesson 6 2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

Outline By: Mark Knowles 3/4/18 AM

Introduction

1. Do you love God? Do you love your local church? This is crucial in getting closer to God. A negative attitude toward the church will not produce a positive attitude toward God.
2. We are added to the church (Acts 2:47); we are called into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 3:15); we live in a community. Our activity in the church allows for closeness to God...

I. The Church

a. The Family of Jesus

- i. The church is not perfect, far from it. The church can even blasphemy God (the Jews did – Romans 2). Yet we are all Jesus has.
- ii. We have been invited to be part of Jesus' family (Mark 3). Who are Jesus' brothers and sisters? "Those who hear and obey."
- iii. The church is a community of sinners living with Jesus as saints. We are the family of God. We cannot walk with God apart from His family. How we feel about the church is our attitude toward God.

II. Community – Fellowship – Family – Brotherhood

a. The Church – One In Life

- i. The church is more than a place you attend or name on a roll – it is a place in which you live (Read Acts chapters 2; 4; 6).
- ii. The church was one in life not just truth. The church was unified (Acts 2:44), magnified (Acts 2:47a), and multiplied (Acts 2:47b). They were not content on just meeting once a week for "services." Why? Because the risen Christ was a living reality to them, and His resurrection power was at work in them (Acts 4:32-35).
- iii. They met daily (Acts 2:46), cared daily (Acts 6:1); won souls daily (Acts 2:47), searched the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5).
- iv. We have community and to get closer to God we must be active in this community He created for us.

III. The Local Church

a. A Church Like Jesus

- i. When God returns, He will be looking for a church that looks like His Son (1 John 2:6). Will we be that church? We are to be the visible body of the invisible Jesus.
- ii. Don't be less active in the church; be more active. Love the church and build your lives in the church.
- iii. Daily let's be thankful for Central even with our warts, wrinkles, problems, and weaknesses. This is our family!_Love the Church!