

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, July 1, 2018
A Supernatural Church
1: Connected for Power

TEXT: Ephesians 3:10 NLT 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.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / 1 Peter 2:9-10

When individuals are pursuing holiness and the Body is growing into the semblance of Christ, then we see supernatural impact. We began with a call to personal purity. Some moved forward, some fell away. We moved on to a call to individual and corporate maturity. Some moved forward, some fell away. It is time to step into the area of supernatural power, or into being the supernatural church God intends us to be.

Here's the note I wrote to myself on November 30 last year: •
empowering and releasing a people of power - supernatural Christianity.
Note 1 Peter 2:9 - this is an "us" thing, that we may "show forth the praises of Him. Praises are "the virtues as a force or energy of the Holy Spirit accompanying the preaching of the glorious gospel"

- 1) Paul's passion and purpose: Col 1:28 -29
 - a) The context: His call to preach the mystery to the Gentiles: Christ in you, the hope of glory. (V. 26-27)
 - b) His message is simple: Him.
 - c) The goal: to present each one a mature believer in Christ Jesus
 - i) Notice, Paul felt his ministry was necessary to the maturing of each person in Christ
 - ii) He saw his role as "presenting" the believers to the Lord:
 - (1) *paristēmi* - to stand beside, that is, (transitively) to exhibit, proffer, (specifically) recommend, (figuratively) substantiate;
 - (2) He wanted to stand by them, recommend them, and present them to Christ. "Lord, may I present to you... He is mature in you."
 - d) This is the aim of His labor and verse 29 tells us that it is a struggle for him:
 - i) Labor – to toil unto weariness
 - ii) Striving – agonizing, as in a battle against an adversary
 - iii) 2:1 - I want you to know how much I have agonized for you (Phil 2:12 / 2 Timothy 4:6)

- 2) God- given gifts agonize for your maturity: Ephesians 4:11-16
 - a) All the so-called ministry gifts are given to prepare the church Body for ministry, not individually, but corporately
 - b) The purpose is in verse 12:
 - i) Perfect: *katartizōl* – to mend, repair, equip, prepare.
 - ii) For service that builds the Body of Christ
 - c) This equipping results in
 - i) Christlikeness
 - (1) Individual
 - (2) Corporate
 - ii) Doctrinal stability
 - iii) Bodily growth: each part doing its part for the effectiveness of the whole.
 - d) Notice, the whole purpose of Church revolves around preparing you to do ministry in the world where you exist, and serve the family where you are planted
- 3) God has set you in a local body of believers
 - a) A spiritual family to pray for you Colossians 4:12
 - b) A spiritual team to encourage and correct: Hebrews 10:24-25
 - c) A spiritual body that functions together to bring supernatural power to bear on a broken humanity: 1 Corinthians 12:4 -29
 - d) Here's the bottom line,
 - i) We are the people of God, not the person of God.
 - ii) The Church is a Body of believers with different gifts, no one individual is the church.
 - iii) You can never fulfill your purpose in life without being connected to a church, and the church will be hindered in reaching the broken world unless you do your part.
 - iv) Your part may be glorious, or it may be anonymous, but it is your part, and it is important.
 - v) To say we want to see the world won, the sick healed, and the bound delivered, but remain detached from the Body is to ignore the teaching of Scripture and disrespect the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Body.

"The Bible knows nothing of a solitary religion."

John Wesley.