

Why Church? | Part 2 - Why Did God Create the Church?

Message Big Idea

God created the church to image himself in the world.

Scripture

Genesis 1:26-28, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Points to Keep In Mind

1. We tend to think about being made in the image of God as a statement about individuals. However, in the text, we see the author has a community in mind that is created to reflect the character and nature of God in the world. This is not to say individuals aren't made in the image of God. Of course, every person is made in the image of God. The logic, language, and theology of Scripture tend to see the individual person in light of the community of God rather than view the community as a collection of individuals. This is a countercultural idea for us today as we tend to see ourselves through the lens of Western individuality.
2. We immediately see that the man, the woman, and the rest of humanity in Genesis 1-11 aren't great gardeners. Our attempts to care for and steward all of God's creation is a messy endeavor fraught with challenges and mistakes. However, this is the call of God for his people – to wisely govern, serve, and care for all that is God's. Despite these challenges and shortcomings, we can care for the environment, as we care for the people within, by relating to everyone in just ways. This call is not grounded in an earthly political ideology but in the opening chapters of Genesis.
3. God's hope for the Church is that it is the community where anger, resentment, and division are swallowed up in the work of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is God's desire for his wisdom to be made known in the church (see Ephesians chapter 2 & 3 and especially 3:10). The coming together of Jews and Gentiles in the Church was the sign of God's power and wisdom at work in the world through the Church. This kind of work stands before us today in the 21st century. The world tends to carve us into factions that can't get along, but whenever people gather where those ethnic, social, or cultural lines are crossed, we make Jesus known to all who see us.
4. Some in your small group may need help identifying their gifts, talents, and experiences that bless others. If any struggle to name these, gently share what you see in them. You might even encourage others to share what they see in others in the group. If you have people in your small group that have never taken a Spiritual Gifts Inventory, you could have them click on the following link and discuss what they find. <https://giftstest.com/>

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism/
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/
6. Find out more about YOU+ by visiting: communitychristian.org/you/