

God's Design: The Church

10-27-19

Exodus 20:2–3 (ESV)

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ You shall have no other gods before me.

God's Design has been distorted by sin. Through Christ and the church, God moves to restore HIS Design. This is an OT account that gives us a picture how God restores HIS Design, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

We see can in another OT picture how God is active in restoring HIS Design.

Exodus 19:4 (ESV)

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

God brings us to HIMSELF. We all have a personal story, experience, testimony, about how we accepted Christ. With that personal story comes a personal relationship. Again, in the OT, we have a picture of that relationship.

Exodus 19:4–6 (ESV)

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

In the NT, God uses the same language to identify this relationship with HIS church.

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **people for God's own possession**, *that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

The church is a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people of God's own possession. As the church, we proclaim our story; the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The Word of God and Christians Values are taught to the church not the world. Of course, we share whenever the opportunity comes, but we know that it is only by the acceptance of Christ will give anyone gain understanding of God's Word. Note what the Apostle Paul says:

1 Corinthians 5:12–13 (ESV)

¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside.

This does not mean we are to be judgmental in the church. This is saying that the church has The Truth, The Word of God, and therefore has the capacity to follow God's Design and to make godly decisions consistent with what God desires.

God's Design: The Church has a unique organization structure.

Eph.1:22-23 (NIV)

²² And God placed all things under Jesus' feet and appointed Jesus to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of Jesus who fills everything in every way."

Jesus is over everything for the benefit of the church which is HIS body which is the fullness of Jesus. The church is not an institution but an organism. It exists and functions only by reason of its vital relationship with Jesus who is its Head.

The Church is God's glorious achievement for all to see!

Eph.3:10 (NIV)

⁽¹⁾ **God's intent** was that now, ⁽²⁾ **through the church**, ⁽³⁾ **the manifold wisdom of God** should be ⁽⁴⁾ **made known** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

⁽¹⁾ **God's intent** – ⁽²⁾ **Through the Church** – ⁽³⁾ **The manifold wisdom of God** – ["Manifold" (*polypoikilos*) is a poetical adjective meaning "very varied, variegated, multifaceted."] – ⁽⁴⁾ **Made known to the angels** – **The Church becomes a picture by which the angels of heaven see the majestic, multifaceted, glory of God.**

God's Design: God purpose for The Church is to show God's glory in HIS people, in Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Ephesians 3:21 (ESV)

To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**The Church: Our story brings God glory, because we are:
a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for
God's own possession.**

The Bible was given to us to understand God's Design!

1Tim.3:15

To know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

God's design has Pastors and Elders trusting Christ, dedicated to the Bible, to care for God's Church which God obtained by God's very own blood.

Acts 20:28 (ESV)

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

God's Design: The Church has one uniting truth!

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Prophetic Team

***Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or
impact the future.***