



Sunday September 17, 2017

Rem

Rem is abbreviation for Reminder. In this sermon we would like to remind people about our vision, the 10 focus areas we are growing in, and our common pursuit in the things of the Spirit.

Matthew 16:18-19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Jesus said He would build His Church.

It is a Church that has dominion over the powers of darkness.

It is a Church that is vested with Kingdom authority to permit/disallow on earth, what God permits/disallows in heaven.

The Church is a spiritual body made up of all believers in Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 3:15

but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

The local church is the physical representation of the spiritual Church. Notice how Paul refers to the local church (in Ephesus) as the house of God and the church of the living God.

APC is one of the many local churches in the city of Bangalore.

So what are we up to as a local church?

Why do we gather together every Sunday?

What are we doing as pastors/leaders at APC?

We'd like to remind us about some of these things:

Developing the Local Church According to God's Blueprint

In serving at APC, we are trying to build the local church according to 'God's blueprint'. We see in Scripture that there are at least 10 pictures God has used to describe what He desires for the Church to be like.

So we are working to develop us as a local church in each of these 10 areas.



We need to keep growing, keep moving from one level to the next in each area.

We have a free APC Publication available at the book table called: "The House of God" where we discuss each of these in detail. We briefly summarize these here for us:

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

THE BRIDE In love with our Bridegroom God	A HOUSE OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP Continuous worship and prayer	THE TEMPLE OF GOD God dwelling among us and His glory revealed through us	THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES Intimacy that births fruitfulness	THE LAMPSTAND Our standing before Him makes us light in a dark world
THE BODY OF CHRIST We represent Him and carry out His purposes	THE FAMILY OF GOD We live as His family here on earth	THE PILLAR OF TRUTH We uphold truth in this world	GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE We demonstrate Kingdom culture and values	AN ARMY We overthrow the works and powers of darkness
THE EARLY CHURCH A prototype to follow and exceed				

1, The Body Of Christ : we derive our life and identity from Christ who is the Head. Every believer is a member of the body and has a place, role and function. We carry out His purposes on the earth.

2, The Family Of God : we live in kingdom relationships of love, caring for one another. Every believer has to grow up to become fathers and mothers in the family.

3, The Pillar Of Truth : we stand for truth and uphold truth uncompromisingly.

4, The Army : we contend with and overthrow the works and powers of darkness

5, The Bride : we are love with our Bridegroom God and keep ourselves separated unto Him.

6, A House Of Prayer And Worship : we engage in continuous prayer and worship.

7, The Temple Of God : we are God's dwelling place for His glory to be seen through us.

8, Zion - God's Chosen People : We demonstrate Kingdom culture and values.

9, The Vine And The Branches : we live in intimacy with the Lord



10, The Lampstand : we shine as lights in this world.

As a local church we have to grow in all these areas.

Equipping Every Believer in the Word and Spirit

The Church has to come to a place of full maturity - which is the full measure of Christlikeness.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

In order to get there, the saints have to be equipped to do the work of the ministry, so that the Body of Christ can be built up.

We equip people by the Word and the Spirit.

Therefore we place a lot of emphasis on the Word and the work of the Spirit.

So at APC one of our objectives is to equip every believer for the work of ministry. This does not mean we all quit our jobs and do ministry. Rather it means that we are all equipped with the Word and the Spirit to do whatever 'ministry' (assignment for His Kingdom) that God has called us to.

So we want to see every believer become a minister.

Strong in the Word and strong in the Spirit.

Weekend Schools

Our weekend schools are an important part of equipping all of us.

We encourage all of you to attend the weekend schools. Attend each school a few times, because you are not going to get everything by attending just once.

Have a hunger and desire to learn and be equipped.

One Common Pursuit: Hosting His Presence and Manifesting His Glory

The Church has to come into a place of being the glorious Church without spot or wrinkle for which Jesus can come back.

Ephesians 5:27

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.



The Lord Jesus is working on the Church to make it a glorious Church - a Church full of glory.

So this is our desire. We are pursuing more of Him.
We desire to have more of Him in and amongst us as a community.
We desire to host His presence in ever increasing measures.
We desire to manifest His glory here on earth.

For this we pray. We seek Him intently.

Our Desire Is To Impact Our City, Our Nation And Nations

Like we mention every week in our vision statement: *to be salt and light in our city, a voice to our nation and to the nations.*

This means we seek to impact and influence our city, nation and nations.

We desire to see a mighty move of God's Spirit ("revival" or "outpouring"...people use different terms) that will powerfully impact the city of Bangalore. We must continue to pray for this.

God's plan is that the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Numbers 14:21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—
Psalm 72:19 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen and Amen.
Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

Our city shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord

Be A Part Of This Journey

Let's journey together in this.
Let's grow together to be a local church build according to God's blueprint.
Let's be a people where everyone is equipped in the Word and the Spirit.
Let's be a people who are pursuing His presence and manifesting His glory
Let's be a people who are impacting the city, nation and nations for Jesus Christ.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Matthew 16:8-19; Ephesians 4:11-13*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group study.

(A) Discuss briefly the 10 aspects of God's blueprint for the local church - what we are growing into as a people: The Body Of Christ; The Family Of God; The Pillar Of Truth; The Army; The Bride; A House Of Prayer And Worship; The Temple Of God; Zion-God's Chosen People; The Vine And The Branches; The Lampstand. (see the APC Publication, 'The House of God' if required).

(B) According to Ephesians 4:11-13, the Lord Jesus desires for every believer to be equipped to do the work of the ministry. According to what you know now, share (i) what 'ministry' (work or areas of service) the Lord has laid on your heart and (ii) what areas you feel you need to be equipped to do the 'ministry' the Lord has for you.



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.