

## WEEK 6: DO YOU DELIGHT IN THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

### I. INDWELLING SPIRIT

- A. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and He lives in Christ and us as believers.
- B. Ro 8:9 You, however, are **not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if in fact **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- C. Test of spiritual health whether or not we delight in what He delights, the Bride of Christ.
- D. 1Jo 3:14 ¶ **We know that we have passed out of death into life**, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
- E. **One who saves you gives you this love!**—>Ro 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, **because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.
- F. Ps 16:3 As for the **saints in the land**, they are the **excellent ones**, in whom **is all my delight**.
- G. **Whitney points out 3 things in this verse** about God's people
  - 1. **They are the saints— people of God**
    - a. Manifested fruit of the Spirit —> Ga 5:22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**
    - b. Not Perfect people as sin finds them as those in Corinth—> 1Co 1:2 **To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:**
    - c. Everyone who has Holy Spirit in them is a saint-only God makes you a saint!
  - 2. **saints in the land**— these are not just great godly dead people, people who lived with David— like you and me
  - 3. **the excellent ones** — David considered them magnificent people—> He held them high
    - a. Not really great people but because they were children of God!
    - b. They loved God as David loved God
- H. **Diagnostic question: do you delight in the church as a whole?**
  - 1. Church, not individuals, are the bride of Christ
  - 2. Delighting in coming together, sharing together, laboring together
  - 3. Cannot love the church and NOT love the people
    - a. Delighting in the church is delighting in the presence and ministry of the people as a congregation and as individuals.

## II. DELIGHT WILLINGLY?

- A. **Ro 5:5 . . . God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit . . .**
- B. POURED → not driven in you
- C. Believers delight in each other because God actually gives us this delight
- D. **Ps 122:1 . . . I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"**
- E. As an unbeliever we go to church many times as children being threatened by a parent .
- F. God changes the heart of a believer and a love for His house and His people is the result.
- G. It should not be punishment to be at church– it should progressively be our pleasure
- H. Whitney: “Church is not a taste to be acquired, a new preference developed by sheer resolve.”
  - 1. Meaning it is not something that you must do until you like it.
  - 2. Love of the church is an innate quality of the believer – it is God given

## III. DO YOU DELIGHT IN HER COMPANY

- A. Just being with other Christians, brings a delight in those that delight in God.
- B. God is everywhere, but when God's people come together there is a special way that God's presence is there.
- C. Paul speaks in the plural of God's people together
  - 1. **1Co 3:16 ¶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?**
  - 2. **2Co 6:16 ... For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**
- D. Growing Christians grow in their delight in being with the saints because God's presence is living in them→ they are ordinary people filled with the Spirit of God
- E. God haters hate the church→ God transforms the heart, they become God lovers and church lovers.
- F. Not every relationship among fellow believers is a delight.
  - 1. Christians still sin and sin leaves a wake! That wake is overwhelming at times
- G. Sometimes we are just worn out physically and it is difficult to delight in much
- H. Overall God's people being with God's people brings joy and satisfaction.

## IV. DO YOU DELIGHT IN HER ACTIVITY?

- A. Paul to Timothy → **2Tim 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**

- B. **Paul knew what we as believers must know– God is always working in His people, we are His instruments, His tools→ He could do it all without us but that is not what He wills to do.**
- C. Paul was delighted to work on behalf of Jesus Christ to do His work.
- D. God is continually working to build His church→.
  1. He is sanctifying believers; He is drawing the elect; He is saving the elect
- E. That is God’s purpose to leave this world in tact at this time, therefore this should ours.
- F. Nothing can compare to the delight that comes from being on mission with the Lord!
- G. Whitney: *“to delight yourself in anything else more than God and the work of His kingdom is like contenting yourself with watching a video of someone else’s wedding ceremony when you could be on your honeymoon.”*

## V. EXPRESSING YOUR DELIGHT

- A. Two suggestions to for expressing delight.
- B. **Grow to see the bride of Christ and her work more as Jesus does.**
  1. Can you see the beauty in the bride more clearly than you did before?
  2. Can you see clearer what Christ loves about His bride and her work?
  3. Christ loves to see more of Himself being displayed in His bride and her ministries.
  4. **Look around today and try to see 3 things that are examples of the beauty of Christ’s holiness that you can see in the church.**
  5. Takes eyes of faith to see the works of faith.
  6. Eyes of faith can increase their acuity to see clearer as Christ sees them.
  7. As we mature in Christ our eyes of faith become keener and sharper
  8. 2 Cor 4:16 says that even though our physical body gets weaker with time, our spiritual body is being renewed daily
- C. **Demonstrate your delight in the bride of Christ in ways that will make a real difference**
  1. Church work is Jesus’ work→Where are there needs? Get involved!
  2. Can’t find anything? Create a ministry–look for the unheralded places of service
  3. Give your time, money and energy to the bride that Christ gave His life!
  4. World is perishing but “what God does, endures forever” (Eccl 3:14
  5. What will count in glory? Not riches, successes, athletic feats, but the works of God performed by the saints of God.
  6. [Heb 6:10](#) For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.
- D. **Ps 149:4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.**
- E. God delights in His people. Do you?