

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Sermon Notes | Strong Church

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

JUDE 1:3; 12-13

³Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. ¹²These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

This week, we explored the urgent need for strong churches, beginning with our own and extending our support to others.

First, there is plenty of Biblical support for strong churches. Colossians 2:6-8, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." See also Jude 3 and 12.

Secondly, there is historical support. The great 19th-century preacher Charles Spurgeon warned,

"They are going to regenerate the world by Democratic Socialism, and set up a kingdom for Christ without the new birth or the pardon of sin...To me it seems a tangle of ever-changing dreams. It is, by the confession of its inventors, the outcome of the period—the monstrous birth of a boasted "progress"—the scum from the cauldron of conceit. It has not been given by the infallible revelation of God—it does not pretend to have been. It is not divine—it has no inspired Scripture at its back. It is, when it touches the Cross, an enemy! When it speaks of Him who died thereon, it is a deceitful friend. Many are its sneers at the truth of substitution—it is irate at the mention of the precious blood. Many a pulpit, where Christ was once lifted high in all the glory of His atoning death, is now profaned by those who laugh at justification by faith. In fact, men are now not to be saved by faith but by doubt. Those who love the Church of God feel heavy at heart because the teachers of the people cause them to err."

How does the Church respond to Romans 8 faith? We become the church that Jesus came to plant.

Five Attributes of a Strong Church:

1: Strong churches have powerful services/gatherings.

At their best when grounded in truth, accessible, and joyful.

- Environment: Smiling faces; Holy Spirit is welcome and at work.
- Worship: Jesus-centered, theologically rich, engaging.
- Teaching: Expository —a mix of verse-by-verse and topical.
- Kids: Enjoy church, make friends, love Jesus.

*Quick Note: We had 46 kids in elementary last week, and 211 kids total. Starting next week: 1st–4th and 5th–8th.

A "call to volunteer arms"! We need volunteers to invest in our Kids + Youth!

REMEMBER

"The present is a time not for ease or pleasure, but for earnest and prayerful work. A terrible crisis unquestionably has arisen in the Church. Yet there is in the Christian life no room for despair...Laymen, as well as ministers, should return, in these trying days, with new earnestness, to the study of the Word of God. If the Word of God be heeded, the Christian battle will be fought both with love and with faithfulness...Every man must decide upon which side he will stand. God grant that we may decide aright! What the immediate future may bring we cannot presume to say. The final result indeed is clear. God has not deserted His church."

~J. Gresham Machen
(1923)

REMEMBER

*Humility
precipitates
strength.*

DISCUSS

1. What holds you back from being more invested and involved in the body of Christ –your local church family?
2. What are some ways you can start prioritizing investment in your church family now (Wed nights, serving, joining or leading a group, tithing)?

2: Strong churches help people connect & grow spiritually.

The great aim of the church is to disciple people at every age and stage –beyond just “sitting in a seat.” Church is for believers. Unbelievers are welcome and evangelism is good, but church is primarily for discipling saints.

We take that job seriously, so we offer the following:

Wednesday Nights: establishing a better church rhythm, growing family, and a different style of service.

Partnership Track: The next class begins October 27th.

Groups and Bible Studies: listed on the website [here](#) and [here](#).

- Wednesday mornings at Chick-fil-A, 6:30am
- Married couples at the Metzger’s, Sundays after church.
- *Every Man a Warrior* with Sam Hornish
- New Believers with Dave Deangelo, Thursday at 6pm
- Tuesday Mornings: Ladies study & Young Mom’s group

Redemption Recap (check out the podcast [here](#))

Sermon Notes (posted every Monday @ [experienceredemption.com](#))

Daily Dig (sign up for our daily devotional on our website homepage)

Events: (check out our calendar [here](#))

- Parenting Conference on November 2nd
- Financial Peace University begins on October 8th

3: Strong churches train up the next generation.

- [Kids](#) and [Youth](#) ministry; [Junior Bible Quiz](#)
 - 5th-8th: catechism
 - 9th-12th: Wednesday night Youth Group

4: Strong churches operate with excellence.

Volunteer Culture: *Real Leadership Serves People*

- Serve with an overabundance of joy, multi-generational, and excellence –no “...it’s just church...” attitude!

Financial integrity: G-E-T Still operating under 30%

“Groups, not ministries.”

Environment (both physical and digital)

5: Strong churches leverage their resources for Kingdom impact.

People always ask, “What do you do for missions?” TONS!

- Starts internally (Family Fund)
- Mayflower = build community, leverage our land ...
 - Canning Day: Saturday, September 7th at 9am
- Bella Vita Network
- Revere Bible College
- Clear Truth Media
 - Website/Conferences/Church Support
- King of Glory in Haifa, Israel

Ready to start serving?

Email kayla@experienceredemption.com