**God’s Manifestation in the Church – Ephesians 1:1, 3:10**

Part 1 – Jesus the Owner and Builder of the Church.

Part 2 – We are God’s Army.

Part 3 – Ephesians 1:1, 3:10 “we are God’s visible manifestation, an outward expression of the inward character of Christ’s Body, manifesting its recognition of His headship and our unity!

**So now Believers are called to be a faithful Servants to God’s Manifestation in us.**

* Ephesians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
* 1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

## **The Wonder of God in the church today is, God in us! Ephesians 1**

Ephesians 1:1 “in Christ Jesus”

Ephesians 1:3 “ who hath blessed us”

Ephesians 1:7 “ in whom we have”

Ephesians 1:8 “ He hath abounded towards us”

Ephesians 1:9 “having made know to us”

Ephesians 1:11 “in whom we obtained an inheritance”

Ephesians 1:3 “ who hath blessed us”

### **A Called to be faithful! What does it mean to be faithful in Christ Jesus?**

* Sometimes faithfulness is not seen before the failure.
* Sometimes faithfulness is more clearly seen after the failure, when you have messed up.
* What do you do when you have messed up?
* Faithfulness does not mean perfection. It is a measure of a person’s character. It is a love for the Lord Jesus Christ. So it points to the character of one who is a believer who is faithful in Christ Jesus.

**The Westminster Larger Catechism (1648)**

* Question 1: What is the chief and highest end of man?
* Answer: Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

## **The Work of the Christian! What is the purpose of the Church?**

To Love God – Eph. 1:5-6, 11-12, 14,

## **How do we love and glorify God?**

**#1 Through Praise and Prayer** – Ps 50:23, Heb. 13:15, Eph. 1:15,16

1. **Praise God for everything!**

* 1 Thessalonians 5:18 “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

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1. **Praise God for Who He is:**

* Psa. 7:17 “I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.
* Psa. 28:7 “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

1. **Praise in all Situations -** Troubles are not a lack of God’s Power.

* Psa. 21:13 “Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.
* Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**Praise to God teaches us to see the Sovereignty of God in Everything!**

**Praise comes out from a love to God.** Rev. 2:4 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.”

**We also glorify God”**

**#2 through fruit bearing** – John 15:8

* John 15:8 “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

**#3 through giving** – Phil. 4:18, Heb. 13:16

* Philippians 4:18 “But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.
* Heb. 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

**#4 through preaching and ministering –**

* 1 Peter 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**#5 through loving Rom 15:5-6**

* Romans 15:5 “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:
* Romans 15:6 “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**#6 through acknowledging - God’s Son – Phil 2:9-11**

**#7 through believing God’ word - Rom 4:20**

**#8 through suffering - 1 Pet 4:14,16**

**#9 through witnessing - 2 Thess. 3:1**

**#10 through displaying God’s grace in us! Eph 2:7, 3:6, 10, 1 Peter 2:**9

**What kind of Church am I? Unknown poet once wrote:**

I want my church to be a place, where I can meet God face to face. I want each worship hour so sweet, that I can feel each time we meet. The Lord Himself will take his seat. I want my church to be far more than table, window, pew and door, or carpet laid upon the floor. But oh, I know it cannot be more than that which is found in me, So tach me, Lord, to live for Thee!

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