

- a renewed commitment to and a refreshed love for our church -

Happy Father's Day!

Introduction

Purpose in preaching this message: to have a renewed commitment to our church and to have a refreshed love for our church by looking at three Biblical images of the church.

Definition of Church

- The word "church" in the Bible comes from the Greek word "ekklesia," which means "an assembly of people or a gathering of people." It is never intended to mean "a building."
- When Paul addressed a letter to a church, he wrote, "to the church of God at Corinth" or "to the churches of Galatia." (1 Cor. 1:1, 2 Cor. 1:1, Gal. 1:2)

Three Biblical Images of the Church

1. **The Church as God's People**

I will dwell and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. (2 Corinthians 6:16b CSB)

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. (1 Thessalonians 1:4 NLT)

(1) **God defines our identity.**

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9 NIV)

(2) God provides care and protection for us.

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." (2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV)

(3) God expects faithfulness and holiness from us.

"Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelations 2:10b CSB)

"[14] As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. [15] But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; [16] for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16 CSB)

2. The Church as the Holy Spirit's Temple

[16] Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? [17] God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NLT)

[19] Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 CSB)

(1) The Holy Spirit produces fruit in and through us.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. (Galatians 5:22-23 CSB)

(2) The Holy Spirit empowers us to be his witnesses.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 CSB)

(3) The Holy Spirit is the means of Jesus' presence in us.

9 You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. 10 Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. (Romans 8:9-10 CSB)

Illustration: Number of Temples in Japan

3. The Church as Christ's Body

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:22-23 NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27 CSB)

(1) Christ as the head of his body, the church, holds us together.

[17]He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. [18] He is also the head of the body, the church. (Colossians 1:17-18a CSB)

(2) Christ's body, the church, has different members, not just one member.

[14] Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. [15] If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? [17] If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? (1 Corinthians 12:14-17 NLT)

(3) Christ's body, the church, as a whole feels the pains and joys of each member.

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. (1 Corinthians 12:26 NLT)

<u>Japan and World Missions Offering</u>

- Inserted in the message outline is a list of missions projects in the current year and the necessary budget.
- Supporting church planting initiatives.

Pastor Dale' Testimony: Vision for Church Planting

- Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do." (CSB)
- For me, after many years in Japan and through joys and sorrows, God has called me to the next stage of the work He wants me to do.
- God has called me back to the United States, in Los Angeles, California, to plant or start a new church.
- The name of the church is EMERGE CHURCH LA and it comes from the Greek word ginomai which means emerge, to become, or come into existence from a lesser state to a greater.
- 2 Peter 1:4: "By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."
- It will begin in the neighborhood of Sherman Oaks, which is about 20-30 minutes away from Hollywood.
- Ezekiel 22:30, which says, "I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land so that I might not destroy it, but I found no one."
- In August, after VBS, I will leave and head back to the US. In September I will begin working on this call, this burden, this work that God has prepared in advance for me to do.

OUR PURPOSE – (WHY ARE WE HERE?)

EMERGE CHURCH LA exists to Become a Transformational Community with a Kingdom Focus.

It's about lives being changed for the glory of God.

OUR MISSION – (WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?)

Be a church that becomes a destination where people experience and embrace the transformation of new life in Christ and emerge as a movement where they live it and share it so their neighbors and their neighbor's neighbors may become partakers of the best kind of life intended for them.

It's about living a life of intention – about being the body of Christ to our neighbors.

OUR VISION – (WHERE IS GOD TAKING US?)

Become people of God who impact the world by reaching our city one neighborhood at a time.

It's about living a life of influence for the cause of Christ.

+++++End of Pastor Dale's Testimony+++++

Consider financially supporting this vision of church planting.

- If you're going to give in cash, please use one of the "Japan and World Missions Offering" envelopes and write, "Church Planting Pastor Dale".
- If you're going to give by bank transfer, please indicate your giving as "Church Planting Pastor Dale".
- If you're going to give by credit card or other means, please choose "Japan and World Missions" and inform the financial office (non@tokyobaptist.org) of the amount given.
- The deadline for giving is by the end of July 2022.
- If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Joel (joel@tokyobaptist.org).

Conclusion

Deeply reflect on the three Biblical images of the church and prayerfully consider “renewing your commitment and refreshing your love for our church” by:

- Reconnecting in-person with other TBC members, if you’re not yet reconnecting.
- Attending in-person one of the worship services, if you’re not yet attending.
- Serving in a ministry as part of the body of Christ, if you’re not yet serving.
- Supporting the ministries and missions of TBC through tithes and offerings, if you’re not yet supporting.

- If you want to know more about Christ, please contact us at cc@tokyobaptist.org, or you can talk with me right after the service.

Let us pray!

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
June 18&19, 2022
Tokyo Baptist Church
[Shibuya・Misato・West Tokyo]

Welcome first time guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

First time guests Connection:

COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, we want to hear from you!

Email cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

"TBC Life" is our weekly newsletter sent via email.

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

TBC CLASSES

ONSITE class 101 Membership

Sept. 10, Saturday - 1:30pm – 5:30pm

https://t-b-c.us/classes to register

Small Groups Information

SG Lesson
t-b-c.us/sg2522p

SG Sign-up
t-b-c.us/sgsu

For Online Giving please visit:
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