

# **Ephesians- A New Way To Be Human**

## **Part 13: A New Community**

### **INTRO:**

*Frankly many people simply avoid church because of irrelevance*

#### **1. The Church Is Irrelevant To The World Today:**

*“Do you honestly believe that our big churches & highly visible Christian leaders have brought about a movement that is taken seriously in this country? We feel we are making a difference because we are so important to ourselves. We have created a phenomenal subculture w/ our own media, entertainment, educational system & political hierarchy so that we have the sense that we’re doing a lot. But what we’ve really done is create a ghetto that is easily dismissed by the rest of society.” – Bob Briner*

#### **2. We Are Perfectly Ok W/ This!**

#### **3. No, The Church Used To Turn The World Upside Down**

Acts 4:13-22- Unschooled, ordinary men who’d been w/ Jesus  
“what shall we do w/ these men...” “counted worthy to suffer...”  
Acts 17:6- “And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason & some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,”

#### **4. What Is The Purpose Of The Church?**

Here in Ephesians 3- we find out what the church is all about...  
Paul is telling the Ephesians that church is critical to the world...  
More than Christians need the church!!! The whole world!  
Ephesians 3:10-11- “so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers & authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,”

#### **5. Our Changed Hearts & Lives Reveal God’s Wisdom**

Philippians 1:27- “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come & see you or am absent, I

may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, w/ one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,”

## **6. It's More Caught Than Taught**

### **7. We Must Be Devoted To, Not Dabbling In, The Church?**

Acts 2:42-47- “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching & the fellowship, to the breaking of bread & the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, & many wonders & signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together & had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions & belongings & distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together & breaking bread in their homes, they received their food w/ glad & generous hearts, praising God & having favor w/ all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Ephesians 3:11-13- “This was according to the eternal purposes that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness & access w/ confidence through the our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.”

#### **Response:**

**Don't Get Overwhelmed: Our Faith Is In Christ, Not Us...**

**Don't Hide Your Suffering**

**Don't Just Dabble, Devote Yourself To The Church:**