

HOLY SPIRIT #3: EPHESIANS 4:1-16 WHOSE DREAM ARE WE LIVING?

MEMORIAL DAY: mil. Great AM SP – fiery Pat Henry “Give me liberty or give me death” -- Fredrick Douglas's “Hypocrisy of American Slavery – Table turning Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address - Reagan’s “Tear Down this Wall” - Martin Luther King Jr. “I Have a Dream”

They projected a picture a vision for us to live to that inspired us and motivated us.

These individuals, with all their diversity believed in a dream, and the strength of their conviction unified others. It united them around the American dream, which was the belief that we could be a diverse but united people enjoying natural rights instituted by God in the pursuit of the freedoms He afforded.

HIGHER DREAM THAN AMERICAN DREAM – GOD’S DREAM 4 HIS PPL - CHURCH

God’s dreams aren’t fly-by-night fancies, they are fully realized realities that we have the privilege and opportunity to take part in if we so choose.

GOD’S DREAM: To create a diverse people united in faith around the one true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. An eternal people, fully functioning, gospel radiating, spiritual gift using, culture transforming, built up, grown up, unified up, bound up in love as a force of gospel truth and love in His sovereign hand.

LET’S GET REAL... WE AIN’T THAT..YET – dreamers dreamin sorts dreams

THE DREAM OF GOD IS REALIZED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

LC is where every Christ follower and community reaches full potential.

PROBLEM DISMANTLED CULTURAL XIANITY TODAY: DEVOLVED CLASS SYSTEM

WORK OF THE MINISTRY PRESUMED PROFESSIONAL CLASS (trained, emp pstrs)

PROFESSIONAL / LAYPERSON / CONGREGANT – PAID / UNPAID / UNNECESSARY

- **Pastor/teacher staff 20% active eng sp gift – 80% latent, dormant**
 - o **the professionals got it, staff can handle it, I can’t add, I’m not needed**

CHURCH: Hamstrung, held back, hindered, free hung up on worldly pursuits mis aff

- **Church anemic – unempowered to reach the culture with the gospel**

While various offices/diverse roles and functions - **NO CLASS DISTINCTION**

- o **OLD WINE SKIN BLOWN UP – THE NEW WINE (who wants new wine)**

All of God’s gifted people need to be exercising their spiritual gifts to build up and to be built up. It’s then, and only then, that the church will be activated to reach its full potential.

- **Every SAINT FULLY EQUIPPED TO DO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY**

LC Spiritually Mature: Unity of the faith and unity of knowledge of Son of God - **LC**

Standing on Truth: Not tossed around by every wind and wave of doctrine - **LC Growing**

Up Into Christ: By speaking the truth in love - **LC Joined and held together - LC Working**

On Each Other for Good: For mutual equipping – every part working

GOD'S DREAM REQUIRES THE FIVEFOLD GIFTS TO BE FULLY FUNCTIONING

DYNAMIC POWER IN LC – 5-fold gifting MISSIONALIZES CHURCH

AP FOUNDATIONAL OFFICES - Formation of the Church – ONCE FOR ALL ASPECT

Original Apostles: seen the resurrected Lord – walked with Him – qualified to be an instrument of inspiration.

Prophets: laying the foundation of the church and being used as an instrument of inspiration.

Eph 2:19 but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

Canon of Scripture was once and for all inspired and delivered to church. NO NEW

- **THEN AND NOW ASPECT – once and for all / and a here and now**
- **APEST ARE GIFTED PPL EMERGE AS LEADERS IN THE CHURCH**

Gifts: *Doma: – gifted person – person gifted by God for specific fun*

Church Office: publicly appointed to lead the life and ministry of a local congregation.

- **TEAM Development - Robust leadership team has 5 fold**
- **GIFTS - Scattered throughout the congregation function / maybe everyone**

THE DIVERSITY OF APEST GIFTS EQUIPS EVERY SAINT TO PLAY VITAL ROLE

Apostle: We need to be pushed out of our lethargy and expand the kingdom beyond the four walls so God gives apostles. **Prophet:** People need to discern culture and covenant, have an awareness of sin, and be exhorted to live it out so God provides prophets.

Evangelist: People need salvation and continual exposure to the gospel, so God provides evangelists. **Shepherd:** People need guidance, care, and be compelled to live in community, so God provides Shepherds. **Teacher:** People need to know the truth and how to apply it to their lives, so God provides teachers.

THIS DREAM OF GOD WILL ONLY GROW IN THE RIGHT CULTURE

Cultivated in the culture of: Humility, gentleness, patience, love, fighting for unity (EAGERLY MAINTAINING – eager about things u like) – **FOCUSED ON THE ONE**

If a church doesn't have unity, it doesn't have anything –

- Parts. Can't have a mind of their own – LEG GREW OWN PACE/ arm/torso

NOT UNIFORMITY

Don't look same, talk same, preferences, opinions – JESUS PEOPLE – HIS MISSION

GOD'S DREAMS REQUIRE HIS PEOPLE TO CHOOSE

The church will reach its full potential when God's dreams become our dreams.

- Lots of churches living different dreams – THIS IS THE DREAM WE ARE AFTER

How different is your dream for God's church than God's dream

God is waiting

Blessing the local church