

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 3:16

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
October 2, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

The Perfect Church VIDEO Looking for the perfect pastor?

PASTOR PERRY PERFECT proves he is not perfect simply by his imperfect grammar ... he used the personal pronoun "I" when he should have used "me" ...

The Perfect Pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church janitor.

The Perfect Pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

The Perfect Pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 pastoral visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The Perfect Pastor calls you back (text or email) within 5 minutes, is able to meet at a moment's notice, always has time for church meetings, is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.

Most of the time, you can find the Perfect Pastor in the CHURCH DOWN THE STREET!

If you are sick of your imperfect pastor, want a better one, THEN FOLLOW THIS FORMULA ...

simply send this DESCRIPTION to six other churches WHOSE PASTORS DO NOT MEASURE UP. Then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of your list. If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1, 643 pastors. One of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this PROCESS. One church broke the chain and got its' old pastor back.

No such thing. Perfect pastor, member or church. Perfection great goal, but a flawed expectation.

While ultimate Goal is perfection ... immediate concern is being Spirit filled.

What does a Spirit filled church look like? Church that is alive ...

Please open to 1 Corinthians 3. Page 808.

This church wanted to be spiritually alive, alive to the wrong things; a mess, like every church.

Hatred, pride, fighting, competition, disrespect, arrogance, abuse (sexual and otherwise). They were even misusing their spiritual gifts.

Last week ... Spirit filled life.

1 Corinthians 2:12 "we have received the Spirit from God, so that we might understand or know what God has freely given us." Find Spirit in us, speaking powerful truth through God's Word.

7 promises ... went fast. Brent and Shawn. Teaching notes can weekly on calvarypalisades.

EXPLANATION – not tracking with the book; however, first chapter of the book and last weeks sermon on same truth, that the spirit filled life was meant to be experienced.

This week ... Spirit-filled church. Hear what the Spirit is speaking to you through the WORD..

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16,17 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple,

Used to think that this was referring to me, to my body ... don't smoke, do drugs, steer clear of sexual im. After digging deeper, I am now convinced that this is not a reference to my physical body, but to Christ's body, the church. If we do anything to harm Christ's body (church) we have made a serious mistake.

First of two times (next week ch 6) Paul uses same words ... applies in related way to distinct parties.

1. In the context of divisions in the church ... context tells us that the body Paul is referring to is church **1:1 to the church of God in Corinth with all the saints who are in Achaia.**

2. The personal pronoun used here is plural ... referring to them as a group.
The Body of Christ, the church ... both local and universal.

Chosen, holy people. The place where God dwells. Quality, ambiance, environment.
Calvary is a living, mysterious TEMPLE, place God dwells. A divine manifestation of God's presence.
Take care of Calvary Church, for it is in us (as we gather) that the Spirit dwells.

WHAT DOES A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH LOOK LIKE ...

Something wrong, though could never be perfect, church in Corinth didn't look anything like Spirit-Filled.

1. **The Spirit-Filled church is characterized by UNITY.** Determined to promote and preserve unity.

Primary concern, before he addresses lawsuits, sexual immorality, marriages in crisis, abuse of the Lord's Table, misuse of spiritual gifts, chaos in worship or misunderstandings about the resurrection, or their neglect of giving to support the ministry of the church ... he addresses the primary issue this church was facing, divisions among members and an evident lack of unity.

Spirit-Filling? #1 ISSUE WAS UNITY, WHEN THE BODY GETS CONFUSED IT FIGHTS ITSELF,

Ill. Sally Lupus ... auto-immune disease. When body turns on self and attacks itself.

Mandate is clear, greatest command. **John 13:34,35 "A new command I give you, Love one another"**

UNITY ... Jesus prayer **John 17:20,21 "that all of them may be one."**

NO CLIQUES. NO CONTEMPT. NO FACTIONS. No divisions ... INCLUSION. Open spaces to connect.

Unity does not mean we all have to look the same, it just means loving others; putting others ahead of ourselves; serving others; helping others, praying for others; working for others.

Chan ... can't explain a UNIFIED CHURCH apart from the presence, power and filling of Holy Spirit.

And where there is unity, unity will rise out of humility.

2. **The Spirit-Filled church is unified through HUMILITY.**

NOT ARROGANT, I KNOW HOW TO DO IT, DO IT MY WAY TO SUCCEED. I've been Guilty. Challenge here, a bunch of leaders who at times have great difficulty following. You think you know best. QUENCH.

1 Peter 5:5b "all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

CAUSES OF DIVISIONS ... super-spiritual know-it-alls.

- Intellectuals – quote more Bible Verses. If really spirit-filled you'd have a better handle on Scripture.
- Pragmatists – If you were really spiritual go on missions trips to help build the church around world.
- Existentialists -- you would be more interested in miraculous experiences, connect more in worship.

There is a place for Spirit filling our Intellect, emotion and will. Spirit-filled life/church is BALANCED.

Ill. Bonnie Robinson ... "there you are" INSTEAD OF "here I am". What can I do for you instead of what can you do for me.

Here to worship, connect with God; serve God's people rather than get my needs met/promote agenda.

Chan ... can't explain a HUMBLE CHURCH apart from the presence, power and filling of Holy Spirit. It's especially miraculous in light of how gifted, rich, successful and powerful we all are.

3. **The Spirit-Filled church is humbled in SURRENDER.**

Giving up self-interests to pursue God's interests, even when they are different than mine.

Surrender may be the hardest things to do, we are fighters, never give up, never give in, fight to the death ... survival of the fittest keeps us scrapping to accomplish our plans; while God's plans for us are greater than our plans ... **and success is not found in control but rather through surrender!**

Know the church is Spirit-filled when the health and protection of Christ's body is a higher priority than having everything just as we want it.

Ill. Jan and Andy ... not what I want, what God wants, give up my kids, my plans, my hopes and dreams.

Laying agenda at altar, setting aside my needs/wants.

Surrendered ... This is the life God gave me, this is the church God gave me.

Chan ... can't explain a SURRENDERED CHURCH apart from the presence, power and filling of Holy Spirit.

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH is a group of believers who refuse to let differences push them apart, who know that church is "not about them" and who set aside their agenda, who put each other ahead of themselves and refuse the temptation to have everything "just as they hoped it would be."

Not the manifestation of supernatural gifts, not the number of programs or how much we give away.

Chan ... A unified, humble, surrendered church cannot be explained apart from filling of Holy Spirit.

The Spirit-Filled church takes care of the body, because the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Segue into Communion ... Not only did Jesus pray for His body (one), Jesus died for it, coming. Gave His life so that we might come alive, not only as individuals but as His BODY.