

Beyond The Four Walls - Kimo Hoopai, April 21, 2024

Within our four walls, it's sacred, it's Holy, it's learning, it's discipline, it's equipping ourselves with the knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ, it's preparing believers for what's beyond the four walls.

Mark 16:15 NIV *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

Notes: Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world to tell everyone that he had paid the penalty for sin and that those who believe in him can be forgiven and live eternally with God. Christians today in all parts of the world are telling the Good News to people who haven't heard about Christ. The driving power that carries missionaries around the world and sets Christ's church in motion is the faith that comes from the Resurrection. Do you ever feel as though you don't have the skill or determination to be a witness for Jesus? You must personally realize that he rose from the dead and lives today. As you grow in your relationship with him, he will give you both the opportunities and the inner strength to share his message.

5 Topics

Church is Sacred - 1 Peter 2:9-10 NIV ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Notes: People often base their self-concept on their accomplishments. But the importance of our relationship with Christ transcends our jobs, successes, wealth, or knowledge. We have been chosen by God as his very own, and we have been called to represent him to others. Remember that your value comes from being one of God's children, not from what you can achieve. You have worth because of what God does, not because of what you do.

Church is Holy - Matthew 18:20 NIV *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

Notes: Jesus looked ahead to a new day when he would be present with his followers not in body but through his Holy Spirit. In the body of believers, the church, the sincere agreement of two people in prayer is more powerful than the superficial agreement of thousands because Christ's Holy Spirit is with them. Two or more believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, will pray according to God's will, not their own; thus, their requests will be granted.

Ephesians 2:21 NIV *In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.*

Notes: It means that the church is not built on modern ideas or recent trends but rather on the spiritual heritage given to us by the early apostles and prophets of the faith. Their knowledge of how God worked in the events of the Old Testament, their experience with the risen Christ, and their clear recollection of Jesus' teaching ensured that Christ would be the cornerstone of our faith for all generations.

1 Peter 2:5-6 NIV ⁵ *you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Notes: God wants us, now his "holy priests," to offer ourselves as living and spiritual sacrifices—daily laying aside our own desires and following him, putting all our energy and resources at his disposal, and trusting him to guide us.

Learning in Church - Colossians 3:16 NIV *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

Notes: Although the early Christians had access to the Old Testament and freely used it, they did not yet have the New Testament in its present form or other Christian books to study. Their stories and teachings about Christ were memorized and passed on from person to person. Sometimes the teachings were set to music, and so music became an important part of Christian worship and education.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV ¹⁶ *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Notes: The whole Bible, God's inspired Word, should be our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. Because Scripture is all God-breathed and trustworthy, we should read it and apply it to our lives. The Bible safeguards us against false teaching and guides us in how we should live. It remains our only source of knowledge about how we can be saved. God wants to show you truth and equip you to live for him. How much time do you spend in God's Word? Develop the discipline of reading the Bible regularly to discover God's truth and to become confident in your life and faith. Follow a plan for reading the whole Bible, not just the familiar passages.

Discipline in Church Proverbs 10:17 NIV *Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.*

Proverbs 12:1 NIV *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.*

Notes: If you don't want to learn, years of schooling will teach you very little. But if you want to be taught, there is no end to what you can learn. This includes being willing to accept discipline and correction and to learn from the wisdom of others. People who refuse constructive criticism have a problem with pride. Such people are unlikely to learn very much.

It's Equipping Ourselves in Church Ephesians 4:16 NIV *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Notes: How can we grow more and more like Christ? Some Christians don't grow because they fear that any mistake or sin will destroy their witness for the Lord; they see their own weaknesses and realize that many unbelievers seem to have stronger character than they do. So they try to grow on their own and don't make much progress. But one reason Christ made the church is so that we can help each other grow and mature in our faith. When we join with Christ, he forms us into a group united in purpose and in love for one another and for the Lord. If one stumbles, the rest of the group picks that person up and helps him or her walk with God again.

In Closing: Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV ¹¹ *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,* ¹² *to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up* ¹³ *until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Notes: Our oneness in Christ does not destroy our individuality. The Holy Spirit has given each Christian special gifts for building up the church. Now that we have these gifts, it is crucial to use them. Are you spiritually mature, exercising the gifts God has given you? If you know what your gifts are, look for opportunities to serve. If you don't know, ask God to show you, perhaps with the help of a church leader or Christian friends. Then, as you begin to recognize your special areas of service, use your gifts to strengthen and encourage the church and someone who doesn't know who Jesus Christ is. Amen