

This is Church (Outline)

CHURCH IS...

Week1: The Church is Faithful (Body)

Week2: The Church is Family (Together)

Week3: The Church is Filled (Holy Spirit)

Week4: The Church is Forever (Kingdom)

THE CHURCH IS FILLED

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

JESUS SAYS A STRANGE THING: I'm leaving you here and that's a really good thing

John 16:4 "I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Rather, you are **filled** with grief because I have said these things. 7But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned." John 16 :4b-10

THE UPGRADE:

Disciples would remember earlier conversation: John 14:**16** I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **will be in you**. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you

Jesus claims there is something way better than face-to-face, in-person, interaction with Jesus. The advocate, comforter, Holy Spirit ... will with you, in you ... you will be filled with the very presence of God ... forever.

But is this something we really believe? We know about the HS. Part of the trinity. God 3 in 1. Clean and simple. We get God as Father and Jesus as Son. But the H.S. is urban legend --confusing, scary, not believable, divisive. (Christianity today survey --58% of American Christians do not believe HS is the third **person** of the Trinity)

The HS is not a mysterious force to be used but a person sent by God to live inside us --to be known and

to be known by.

5 Upgrades: Creation, Old Testament, Jesus, Early church, Us/You (focus on filled)

CREATION:

Genesis 1:27 27So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. From page 1 of the bible --God's desire to be with man --his spirit, breath, life --dwelling, filling.

OLD TESTAMENT

Throughout Exodus God's presence described as a cloud --guides, descends on mt. sinai to give 10 commandments, etc.). God tells Moses to build a tent (tabernacle) -- a place for God's spirit and power and presence to live but also to travel with and be close to his people.

Exodus 40: 34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Fast forward into Israel's history. No longer wandering. Settled. Solomon does a fixer upper on God's tent. Massive, permanent building, in the middle of town (temple).

1 Kings 8: 10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. 11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple. 12 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; 13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

THEME: God attempts to draw close --Adam/Eve sin and separate, Solomon builds a temple but Moses and the priests can't go in. In another place they are told they would drop dead if they walk towards the mountain while Moses is up there with God. Later, only the high priest could enter the presence of God, once a year --and even then they tied a rope to their ankle in case he dropped they could drag him out. People went about their day to day activities. No one knew God in a personal way --it was a place of presence not intimacy. God is always present -no one argued that --but impersonal, not intimate or close. We tend to push him away or leave him behind.

JESUS

John 1 - 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Note: "Dwelling = Tabernacle" --literal translation "tabernacled among us"

Old Test pattern was build a tabernacle and God fills it with his presence. Now, Jesus is the container filled with God's presence and power and he goes around doing God-like things --no tent or tabernacle required --

God's presence walked and talked among the people.

Luke - 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

THE EARLY CHURCH

John 20 - 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said ... Just as God sent me into the world as a living, breathing image of the power and presence of God ... I send you into the world to be a living breathing walking talking presence and power of God --filled with the very spirit of God. People now carry the power and presence of God with them wherever they go.

Acts 2 -- Pentecost —Justin spoke last week. The church was filled and sent. More than just people, more than just a body, more than just a family ... an UPGRADE ... the walking, talking presence and power of God among people. The disciples go and do God like things (add examples)

US

3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? Y'all. Us. We. Not the building but the gathered community of believers --the church --back to the first chapter like it was intended to be, like Moses' tent and Solomons Temple —God's spirit and power fills this place. This should be a place where people come to get help and be healed and find life and purpose.

YOU

1 Corinthians 6:19 —Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

You are container for God's power and presence --a walking talking breathing version of God everywhere you go. It's the ultimate upgrade —YOU ARE FILLED

John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

"WHOEVER" --not only the extremely spiritual or extremely gifted --WHOEVER -- YOU!

- What if God's goal is not to fill the seats on Sunday but to free the addicted, heal marriages, provide a solution for depression, provide purpose (other examples???)

"Everywhere I go I find that God's people lack something, they're hungry for something. Their christian experience is not all they had expected and they often have recurring defeat in their lives. Christians today are hungry for spiritual fulfillment. The desperate need of the nation today is the men and women who profess Jesus would be filled with the H.S" —Billy Graham

BE FILLED

The Holy spirit is a person to know not a force to be used. You can't know someone by just hearing about them. The bible is not much about how close we can get to God but how close God has come to us. H.S is the ultimate upgrade --the most intimate version of God available for us to know personally...

The bible says everyone who believes, receives the holy spirit but it is also clear that there are varying levels of closeness with the spirit. Only one place mentions how to be

Eph 5:18 ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

To be filled with you must be controlled and consumed by --very well acquainted with --the spirit.

- Meet with (Intimacy not knowledge)
- Confess to (Holiness not perfection)
 - accuser (enemy) --advocate (H.S). The spirit is forever pleading our case before God
- Act on (Action not intention) When God speaks he wants to act. Faith is length of time between God speaking and me acting. Obedience.

WHAT DOES BEING FILLED LOOK LIKE?

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Fruit not Fruits. Be honest. Do you see these developing in your life?

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

You are a living, breathing, talking, walking presence and power to everyone around you. Walk in step. Be filled.