

GOD'S PERFECT IMPERFECT CHURCH

Introduction

A. Sounds contradictory, oxymoron. How could the church of our Lord be imperfect & perfect at the same time? (aware there are two sides)

B. Recognition may help us when various difficulties arise. You may hear someone say, 'I just don't believe the church is all it's suppose to be.' That's true & false

Body

I. THE PERFECT SIDE

A. Planned by a perfect ARCHITECT

1. Ephesians 3:8-11 – the church demonstrates God's wisdom. As a building stands as a demonstration to the wisdom of its designer. (*Sears tower)

B. Given a perfect BLUEPRINT

1. James 1:25 - a perfect guide, set of instructions (an owners manual) and we need nothing else. Jude 3, Hebrews 8:6f
2. 2 Tim.3:16-17 - originated in a perfect mind (God), revealed by a perfect being (Holy Spirit), has the authority of one who lived a perfect life (Christ)

C. Built on a perfect FOUNDATION - I Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20

D. Has a perfect HEAD - Ephesians 1:20-23

1. He is divine, deity, perfect in everyway.
2. Hebrews 5:8,9 – He is our high priest without sin; became perfect (qualified)

E. Was purchased with perfect BLOOD - Acts 20:28, I Peter 1:18-19

F. In view of all this; the church, in and of itself, has a perfect PLAN

1. Plan of worship – It looks so simple; but it's perfect. It is the very best plan that could be given, from the mind of God; you can't improve upon it.
2. Plan for saving souls - Romans 1:16 – there is no other way possible.
3. Organization (on local level) - Phil. 1:1 - whatever evangelistic efforts, edification, benevolence - all done through the framework of a local church

G. While all this is perfect; it doesn't have appeal to people who put their confidence in thinking of the world and human wisdom.

1. The Lord never intended for us to come to Him through our own human intellect; but through simple trusting faith.
2. God deliberately planned His church in such a way that it would have no appeal to those who trust in human intellect.
3. His way will only appeal to a person who in humility will throw aside his own thinking and bow in humble subjection to God's Will.
4. That's the only person the church of the Lord will ever appeal to. I Cor.1:18 (there is intellect to be exercised in understanding God's Will) but the one who trusts in own intellect, the preaching of the cross is foolishness, vs. 19-26
5. (Now that's the perfect side)

II. THE IMPERFECT SIDE

A. Simply in the fact that the church is made up of imperfect beings. Acts 2:47 - imperfect beings became a part of that which is otherwise is perfect.

B. The Lord planned and designed His church to perfection, but our execution of His plan can be so imperfect.

1. In our **worship** – we can find ourselves just going through the motions.

- a) The Lord wants our worship to come from the very depths of our hearts; an expression of our gratitude, John 4:24; Eph.5:19-20
 - b) In the Lord's Supper, we're to be discerning, meditating, thinking about His sacrifice. This is an act of worship!
 - c) But we're imperfect in what we do....(confession - don't think there's been a time when I ever left the worship - always felt lacking)
2. His plan for **saving souls** – Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 8:4 - they went out excitedly telling others of the faith which filled their hearts; and their faith overflowed into words.
 - a) How many times during the week, we have an opportunity to tell others about the truth and we let fear intimidate us and we seal our lips....rather imperfect in our execution of the great commission.
 - b) How many churches have you ever known of or seen that could be classified as a vibrant, active congregation that's really doing the work? (I've known of a few. I believe this church goes far beyond most.)
 3. The local church with its', elders and deacons is a perfect organization. That's all that the church needs; but made up of imperfect beings.
 - a) It's discouraging to see limited number of gospel preachers; lack of leadership (men who are qualified and can serve as elders and deacons).
- C.** We can make some tragic mistakes: Imperfections on our part are:
1. No excuse for not improving. There are so many areas where we can improve.
 2. No excuse for our not growing. We must be actively involved in the work of evangelism and not make excuses for the church not growing as it should.
 3. No excuse for changing God's plan. Sometimes men look at God's plan and decide that it's not working; so they decide the thing that needs to be changed is God's plan; when really that's the only thing about it that is perfect.
 - a) So we find the worship to be boring - so we add or change things (music, candlelight) and begin to tamper with God's plan.
 - b) In the work of saving souls – we add extra incentives; free trips to Disney, fireworks display; appeal to crowds (Biggest Easter egg hunt, Big Bird)
 - c) Also people see the failure in local congregation in doing its work –so institutions are formed with a board of directors to carry out the work.
- D.** My brethren, if God's plan is not working today, the fault is not in the plan; the fault is in imperfect beings. Cannot improve upon it – Isaiah 55:8,9
1. Something we can improve upon is us; to become what God wants us to be as men and women full of faith, zeal, love & concern.
 2. Even though those of us who lead in worship are imperfect; there will always be imperfections in our worship, we can still do it to very best of our ability.
 3. The local church can be efficient, an active zealous group, with the kind of leadership it needs; to get the work done.
 4. If the plan is not working, the problem is not with the plan, the problem is with us, and we must work on ourselves.

Conclusion

God's plan of salvation is perfect; become a part of that which is perfect. Eph. 5:25-27