



The Notes

THIS IS US

Part 1: “The Myth of the ‘Perfect’ Church”

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Pastor Chris Jung

TO BE THE CHURCH GOD INTENDED, WE HAVE TO STOP BELIEVING THE MYTH THAT...

1. ...THE CHURCH SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE PERFECT CHURCH

“So Solomon finished building the Temple. The entire inside, from floor to ceiling, was paneled with wood. He paneled the walls and ceilings with cedar, and he used planks of cypress for the floors. He overlaid the inside with solid gold. He also overlaid the altar made of cedar. Then Solomon overlaid the rest of the Temple’s interior with solid gold, and he made gold chains to protect the entrance to the Most Holy Place. So he finished overlaying the entire Temple with gold, including the altar that belonged to the Most Holy Place. He made two cherubim of wild olive wood, each 15 feet tall, and placed them in the inner sanctuary. He overlaid the two cherubim with gold. He decorated all the walls of the inner sanctuary and the main room with carvings of

cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. He overlaid the floor in both rooms with gold. The doors, including the decorations of cherubim and palm trees, were overlaid with gold. There were two folding doors of cypress wood, and each door was hinged to fold back upon itself. These doors were decorated with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers—all overlaid evenly with gold. The walls of the inner courtyard were built so that there was one layer of cedar beams between every three layers of finished stone. So it took seven years to build the Temple.”

1 Kings 6:14-38 (NLT)

“One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.”

Matthew 5:1-2 (NLT)

“Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore.”

Mark 4:1 (NLT)

2. ...THE CHURCH SHOULD SOUND LIKE THE PERFECT CHURCH

“Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.”

Psalm 33:3 (ESV)

“Praise him with trumpet blasts; praise him with harps and lyres. Praise him with tambourines and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes. Praise him with loud cymbals; praise him with crashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.”

Psalm 150:3-6 (NCV)

“Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NLT)

“In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ‘Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.’”

Matthew 3:1-2 (NLT)

“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.”

Matthew 13:34 (NLT)

3. ...THE CHURCH SHOULD ACT LIKE THE PERFECT CHURCH

“The apostles were doing many miracles and signs, and everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers were together and shared everything. They would sell their land and the things they owned and then divide the money and give it to anyone who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God and were liked by all the people. Every day the Lord added those who were being saved to the group of believers.”

Acts 2:43-47 (NCV)

4. ...THE CHURCH SHOULD BE THE PERFECT CHURCH

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

“Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way.”

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NCV)