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DGM Message Title: Why Church? Part 3: Wear Me Like a Shoe

Concept: We Belong to God

Message Summary: Who we really are - our identity - is wrapped up in Jesus Christ. The more we study and learn what the Bible says, the more we can become like Jesus. This transformation will take us from being common, messed up people and turn us into a unique, functioning, corporate and spiritual temple that will draw others to come in.

Scriptural References:

- 1 Peter 2:4-6, 9
- Matthew 4:10
- Romans 12:1
- Psalms 51:17
- Hebrews 13:14
- Philippians 4:18
- 1 Peter 2:9

Key Points:

- 1 Peter 2:4-5
 - Speaks about us continuing to come to God just as Peter did
 - We don't always get it right on the first try, we have to keep at it
 - ***I don't stop because I'm tired, I keep going because I'm almost there***
 - Must stay in God's face so that we don't miss an ounce of what God has called us to or laid aside for us
 - The real answers that we need are only available when we keep coming to God – CONTINUALLY
 - Jesus died for each of us to fully live! DG
 - We are not fully alive until we learn to love somebody else
 - When your life starts spinning, God is your rock, He is the ground you stand on, the wall you can hide behind, and the chair you can put all of your weight on and the arms you sleep in
 - ✓ God desires to be all of that so us, but He was rejected by men!

- Chosen by God and “precious”
 - Humanities rejection of Jesus did not make Him any less precious to God
 - Likewise, people’s rejection of you, doesn’t make you any less precious to God
 - ✓ When people reject you, they just fail to see all that you have to offer
 - ✓ It’s their missed opportunity
 - Rejection is sometimes like a shield because it keeps the wrong people out until they are ready
 - ✓ It can also be a form of God’s rejection
 - ✓ It can let me know that I am heading in the wrong direction
 - ✓ Rejection is sometimes God’s protection
- 1 Peter 2:5
 - God’s people should be the liveliest people others should want to meet in life
 - **Life in Christ is about being fully present, fully alive, and uniquely you DG**
 - You are living stones
 - You are being built up!
 - **God’s building is something done to us and not by us! – DG**
 - ✓ God is doing the work, not you: He is placing you where you need to be
 - What makes us God’s people is what God is doing in us
 - **It’s the Holy Spirit drawing us together and keeping us together that makes us His church**
 - ✓ We are being built up into a spiritual house!
 - ✓ This house is alive and living by the Holy Spirit.
 - ✓ God is forming us into something we could never be alone
 - **Just like one body part is useless on its own, one stone does not make a temple!**
 - ✓ Together we make a corporate temple that is functional for people to come for miles around to come into
 - ✓ We may have great pastors and leaders, but without you doing only what you can do the church or body of Christ cannot properly function. We will not have the strength to function
 - We are a Temple and Holy Priesthood
 - A temple is inoperable without priests
 - We are both God’s temple and the priests that are serving
 - We are also the sacrifice
 - ✓ **Sacrifice always comes before success – DG**
- God only asks us for “**Four Things**”
 - Romans 12:1
 - God wants your body
 - You cannot give your body to God without your heart not following

- ✓ Where the mind goes, the body follows
 - Psalms 51:17
 - God wants your attitude
 - ***A bad attitude in the kingdom is a lot like a flat tire, you'll never get far until you change it – DG***
 - Hebrews 13:14
 - God want to hear His praise aloud
 - Give God thanks out of your mouth giving thanks to His name
 - If your life is really filled with music, others will hear it to
 - Philippians 4:18
 - We can never give more than God can reward
 - Where your treasure is, there your heart is there also (Matthew 6:21)
 - Giving is an act of faith
 - ✓ It is a practical way to say, “Lord, I trust you!” and it’s not about me, but about you
- 1 Peter 2:6
 - Zion is the Old Testament (OT) name of God’s people, in the New Testament (NT) it is the name of God’s eternal kingdom and church
 - Zion is God’s people gathered together
 - The corner stone in Herod’s Temple was massive
 - It was the largest, strongest and the most carefully inspected stone of the entire temple
 - The cornerstone was the guide for every stone that came afterwards.
 - ✓ Every stone would be lined up with the cornerstone
 - ✓ The cornerstone had to have the correct dimensions because everything hinged upon it being correct
 - The first part of being in God’s Temple is to line yourself up with Jesus
 - ***We start with Jesus, stay with Jesus and end with Jesus***
 - When God sent Jesus, He gave us His best – He gave us HIMSELF!!!
 - Because we have God living on the inside of us, we carry Him wherever we go...on our jobs
 - When we put out trust in God, we will have no reason to panic
 - Although we panic, God never gave us a reason to!
 - God is always with us and His angels around us
 - People, including Christians, will disappoint you
 - Your trust in Jesus can never be misplaced
 - ***There is no panic in heaven! God has no problems only plans*** – Corrie ten Boom (Holocaust survivor)
 - When you are facing crisis, ask the Lord what His plan is, and tap into and work His plan out (watch God do what only He can do)
- 1 Peter 2:9
 - You are...

- When you discover who you are in Christ, you will never want to go back to living the way you were
- The only reason you are living the way that you are is because you don't know Christ yet!
 - ✓ When you discover Christ, you discover who you really are!
 - ✓ You are a living stones in the temple, lined up with Jesus Himself, and you have been placed where you are by God
 - ✓ Who are you now in Christ Jesus!
- A chosen Generation
 - We are a new breed of people with a God given identity the world has not seen yet
 - Our nationality, gender, etc... should not get in the way of the cross, if so there is something wrong with how you see yourself
- A Royal Priesthood
 - As long as the enemy can keep you from thinking like royalty, he'll keep you from acting like royalty.
 - Dr. Grier read a letter that said: I call you King not as a term of endearment or a pet name, but as a reminder, signed, a Queen
 - ✓ We need some queens in our lives to remind us who we are
 - ✓ We need to kings in our lives to remind us who we are
 - ✓ You have to realize who you really are!
 - As priests, we are constantly offering our bodies to God, our hearts to God and our strength to God
 - Sacrifice is simply giving up what matters for what matters more
 - ✓ David said, I will not give you something that costs me nothing (2 Samuel 22:24 & 1 Chronicles 21:24)
 - What God has for us is more than what our bodies might want at that moment
 - What God has for me is more important than what I may want to buy when God says give
- A Holy Nation
 - We who were not a people have become a people, we may all be different, but we are one in Christ; we all share the same King
 - The battle in your life is not so much against who you have been, but against who you are becoming
 - The more we stay in the Word of God, we discover who we are and become dangerous
 - It takes a few years for fruit to ripen and be ready to eat
 - Jesus likens the Kingdom of God to a seed & the process a seed goes through
 - We will have seasons in our lives where most of the time we will be developing our roots underground that cannot be seen, and you know

something is happening, but you don't see the progress and you don't see the fruit

- ✓ But hang on, you are going to bear fruit and the world has not seen, what God can do to a man or woman fully surrendered to Him

○ His own

- Your family or friends may have left or abandoned you, but God still calls you His own
- You will find that a museum is full of very common things, they are only significant because they belonged or worn by somebody significant (like a pair of common sneakers worn by Shaquille O'Neil displayed in a museum)
 - ✓ People line up to see those shoes which are worn, smelly and cannot perform or score on their own
 - ✓ **That's the gospel!** God takes us - stinky smelly things like you and I and works in our lives so that we to can become special
 - ✓ When we get to heaven the angels are going to line up and see how we wore Jesus
 - ✓ They will recognize us because we made ourselves available to God and made ourselves His ownership or property

○ Final Thoughts

- The church needs you
- We cannot represent our God properly without coming together and really become the Body of Christ