

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part V

Ephesians 1:18-23

Introduction: The impervious truth of the Word of God declares exoterically the prominent role that God's magnificent idea, the church, plays out in the world. Some segments of society possess the strange notion that the church should go into their house of worship and clandestinely keep their religion there. The Bible mandate is that we are to permeate every region of the world. *Matthew 5:13-14* tells us that we are the salt and the light of the world. That means in order for us to be Biblically relevant in the world, as Christians, we must get involved in the election process by becoming a part of it. We must stand our ground on moral and ethical issues by voting our conscience in the voting booth. In addition to encouraging Christians to vote, the church must also be unafraid to teach Bible-based morality unambiguously without compromise. The church is the greatest influence for good in the world that there is.

I. God's magnificent idea

A. God's house is to be holy unto the Lord.

1. God's house is to be glorious! *Ephesians 5:27*. Not a people who are afraid to proclaim who they are. Not a beat down and battered people, but a victorious people.
2. God's house consists of a called-out people whom God has sanctified and prepared as His representatives. *1st Peter 2:9-10*. Because the church is holy in His eyes, we are called saints.
3. Even though God's house at large has been a poor example at times and has strayed from the truth, stooped to compromise, left the saints unfed, and in so many ways has failed to fulfill the sacred trust committed to its charge, yet God will have a people devoted to Himself that He will use as a powerful instrument to accomplish His purposes.

B. God's house is to be united.

1. Notice what Jesus taught in *Matthew 18:19*. The word agree in the Greek, *sumphoneo*, comes from *sum* (together with) and *phone* (sound), the idea being *in sound together*, in *harmony* (cf. the English word *symphony*).
2. God's house is a complex organism that has tremendous unity in the midst of diversity. In our unity we do not lose our individual personality or unique expression and variety of function. Yet, we come into a corporate identification where we forfeit our right to act independently of the rest of the members.
 - a. God's house is one body with many members, one temple with many stones, one flock with many sheep, one vine with many branches, one army with many soldiers, one family with many brothers and sisters.
3. This kind of *unity* exists nowhere else in the world, and it serves as a source of tremendous power in the church. It is a *unity in the Spirit*. *Ephesians 4:3*.
 - a. God also wants His house to have the *unity of the faith*. *Ephesians 4:13*. This implies that there should be a unity of doctrine. An illustration of this is found in *Acts 15:6-13*. Christ prayed in *John 17:20-21* that they should be *one*.
4. The family of God is to be victorious. The church should not be an anemic force in society. Jesus described the kind of edifice He was building in *Matthew 16:18*. The Amplified says, "... *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].*" The body of Christ is on the move as the army of the Lord, and there is no turning back. While the church is the defense of the Gospel, it has also mounted a powerful offensive on behalf of the Lord.

Conclusion: God has given us the keys of the kingdom in *Matthew 16:19*, and in *Matthew 18:18* He gives the church the power to bind and loose on His behalf. For too long, the church has fled from the serpent like Moses did, when in reality, God has given us the power to tread upon serpents.