



**The Church: What?**  
6<sup>th</sup> in the “Church on Mission” Series  
**Zephaniah 3 p. 789**  
August 12, 2018  
Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction**

In this sermon we explore a biblical theology of the church and define “what” the church is.

**The Text: Zephaniah 3**

1) The grand story of the world is that God is gathering a redeemed people to display his love and glory (Zephaniah 3).

2) What is this unique and redeemed people gathered from all the nations called “the church?”

*a) The church is the pleasure of God.*

*b) The church is the people of God.*

*c) The church is the presence of God.*

*d) The church is the power of God.*

*e) The church is the proclamation of God.*

*f) The church is the provision of God.*

*g) The church is the purpose of God.*

**Response**

Christianity cannot be separated from the church

## Sunday Text Questions for Zephaniah 3:1-20

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- 1) Starter Question: Why do you go to church, and how important is it to your Christianity?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) The judgment of God on sinful Jerusalem and the nations is given in vv. 1-8. How do vv. 1-2 depict the kind of rebellion practiced in our world today by those outside the church?
- 4) Vv. 9-20 describe the creation of the redeemed people of God, the international church. How do these verses point to what comes to fulfillment in the New Testament?
- 5) How does v. 9 describe what happens at conversion: God's people will speak his words, call on his name, and serve him?
- 6) Based upon v. 12, why would God create "a people humble and lowly?" How is that a depiction of the church (note the last line in the verse)?
- 7) V. 14 is loaded with the church's response of joy and celebration. How do Christians reflect the joy of Christ in their lives today?
- 8) V. 17 has been called the Old Testament version of John 3:16. Why do you think that is?
- 9) Read Revelation 21. How is Rev. 21 the fulfillment of what Zephaniah describes in 3:18-20?
- 10) How should the Christian apply this text to their individual life and the life of the church?

**Further study this week:** Ephesians 2:11-22 on the church in both Testaments (Mon); Genesis 12:1-3 on the international people of God (Tues); Isaiah 42:1-9 on the promised church (Wed); Isaiah 49:1-13 on the promised church again (Thurs); Luke 2:22-35 on Jesus as the one who establishes the promised church (Fri).