

January Teaching Theme: The Church

讲员 Speaker: Pastor Linghui "Peter" Tian

题目 Topic: In Christ, We are One Family

经文 Scripture: Acts 2:1-13, 37-47

Monthly Theme: This month our teaching theme will focus on "The Church." The Church, as we know, is not a building or place or even worship gatherings, but a multi-ethnic community made up of God's people (Kingdom Citizens). If we don't understand or grasp the robust vision the Scriptures have for the Church, we will be doomed to not live into our calling as a community. Last week we looked at understanding the Church as a Kingdom Embassy in the world whose chief ethic is reconciliation. Building on top of this, this week, Pastor Tian examined the Church as a family crossing national, ethnic, and cultural boundaries.

一月的证道表 - 主题：教会

January Teaching Schedule - Theme: The Church

3rd – 使馆教会 The Church as an Embassy (圣经神学 Biblical Theology, 哥林多后书 2Corinthians 5)

10th – 上帝的跨国大家庭 The TransNational Family of God (使徒行传 Acts 2:1-40, 以赛亚书 Isaiah 25:6-8)

17th – 圣灵的团契 Community of the Spirit (彼得前书 1 Peter 2:4-5)

24th – 神拣选在世的器皿 God's Chosen Instrument in the World (提摩太前书 1 Timothy 3:14-16, 彼得前书 1 Peter 2:6-10)

31st – 基督的肢体 The Body of Christ (以爱为根基的合一多元肢体 Unity & Celebrated Diversity, Grounded in Love) (哥林多前书 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13)

Resources:

[Sermon Video](#)

[Sermon Slides](#)

Discussion Questions (Pastor Linghui Tian):

- (1) Read Acts 2 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage?
- (2) 当众人认为使徒们是“新酒灌满了”时，彼得是如何解释的？彼得的解释对我们今天对上帝的认识有哪些帮助？How did Peter explain when people thought the apostles were "full of new wine"? How does Peter's explanation help us to understand God today?
- (3) 众人听完彼得的分享后觉得扎心，问彼得说“我们当怎样行？”彼得是如何回答的？After listening to Peter's sharing, everyone felt heartbroken and asked Peter, "What should we do?" How did Peter answer?
- (4) 听完彼得分享后，有多少人悔改？他们是从哪里来？如果说他们的背景、身份、文化等不同，为什么他们能同心合意，彼此相爱的生活在一起？After listening to Peter's sharing, how many people repented? Where do they come from? If they have different backgrounds, identities, cultures, etc., why can they live together in love with each other with one accord?

- (5) 透过聆听这篇信息，你最大的收获是什么？你将会在哪方面做出改变？What is your biggest gain from listening to this message? Where will you change?

Important Notes (Pastor William R. Horne):

In Acts 2, we see the birth of the Church moving God's plan forward to include "all people" in the family of God. God's plan from the very beginning was to include all people, nations, ethnicities, and languages in the people of God and here in the birth of the Church, we see this mission moving forward. Peter's sermon in Acts 2, we see this mission of God to create a family of "all people" traced throughout the story of Scripture. We will experience the fullness of this reality when King Jesus returns and see **"a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."** (Rev 7:9). In the present, we as the Church should be making every effort to live into this vision, creating a space that looks like "Heaven on Earth." Though we face many difficulties in accomplishing this vision, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can create spaces that give us a taste of the fullness of this "transnational" family of God. At the end of Acts 2, we see this vision of the family of God being of all people in their generosity and hospitality - sharing their wealth and possession, taking care of one another's needs, like a healthy family.

If the Church is a "transnational" family, we should be wary of any ideology that is overly patriotic or that views a certain nation or people group in a negative way. The Kingdom of God doesn't abide by the man-made boundaries of nation-states or the racial-caste system of the U.S. We have family across all of these borders! Thus, we must celebrate the diversity of our family and live with self-sacrificial love towards our neighbors across borders, ethnic, and cultural, and socio-economic lines. How can we as both individuals and the community of the Church live into this vision? How will we live into the call to be the "transnational" family of God?