

The Big Picture: Our Part in the Covenant

(Various texts)

A Blessing to All Nations

- God's promise to Abraham, that he would be the source of a blessing to all nations, is being fulfilled in Jesus' work through the Church
 - The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-19)
 - The call of the Church is to bring the good news about Jesus to everyone!
 - But we cannot fulfill this calling on our own
 - Otherwise, this covenant would not be different than the Mosaic one
 - We need God with us (Matt. 28:20)

The Holy Spirit in the Church

- Jesus promises to stay with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18; Acts 1:8)
 - This just what God promised through the Prophets (Acts 2:17; cf. Joel 2:28)
- And through the Holy Spirit's work, the Church is the Nation of Priests that God's people were always meant to be (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. Ex. 19:5-6)

Our Call to Holiness

- The Law was given to Israel as a means of setting them apart from their neighbors, making them holy
 - But they failed to keep it, because they couldn't (Rom 3:20; Deut. 6:25; Rom 9:31; Gal 2:21; 3:21)
- The Law is fulfilled in Christ, who grants us right standing (righteousness) with God (Rom. 10:4)
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live out that righteousness, making us holy (set apart) (Rom. 8:1-4)
- What guides us is summarized in Jesus' new command: Love like He loves us (John 13:34-35)
 - This Christ-like, Spirit-empowered love summarizes all the commands of the OT (Matt. 22:37-40)
 - The NT's instructions are working this truth out into the Church's everyday lives (1 John 3:11, 23)
 - Love is how we act as Jesus' ambassadors to the world (1 John 4:7, 11-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-21)

So What?

- God wants to use us to fulfill His Covenant promises
- We do this through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit empowering us to love like Jesus
- Are we on mission?
- Are we relying on the Spirit?

Meditation Verse: *2 Corinthians 5:20*