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## Introduction

This is the first sermon in a new series - Church - God's Idea!

Our goal with this series will be to explore fully the amazing breadth and depth of the Church as God's plan and purpose for this period in history

each week we will look at a different facet - as looking at a diamond - and understand more about God's great idea and faultless plan!

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## Reading: John 17

This was Jesus last teaching to his disciples about his hopes for the future. This teaching represents a wonderful picture of God's church on earth - marked out by four main aspects:

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## The Glory of God

Glory is the revelation of God's splendour!

This prayer is all about showing this in our lives - in the Church

Not a club or society but an expression of God's amazing being.

Jesus was the revelation of God and now the church is called to be!

There are three elements:

**Reputation** - the world see God by looking at the church! Challenging!

**Visibility** - our fellowship, our worship, our servanthood is seeable as Godly!

**Power** - God's glory was seen in Jesus death and resurrection. So God's glory will be revealed in our spirit filled redeemed lives!

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## The Word of God

Jesus word is truth - not dogmatics but the essence of what is real!

The church continues to proclaim that truth to a world which is deceived and confused!

We don't peddle gimmicks or social comment but life changing truth!

So as a church we:

**Listen to God** - through biblical teaching and prophetic revelation



**Explain to the world** - an a way that is relevant and real to the culture!

This is a primary role of the church in society!

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## The Joy of the Lord

Not the first comment that most outside of the church say! - More likely the comment on how miserable some church goers are!

This is a NT theme - rejoice in the Lord always.

We may be a "happy clappy" church but this is not the key!

What is key is the sense of hope in a hopeless world.

The joy of spirit filled christian lives is in contrast to the momentary happiness of material fuelled lives!

Is 60 is a prophetic word about this joy filled expression of God!

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## Unity and Love

The devil will undermine the thing that sets the church apart from nations, political movements etc

That's why we need to fight disunity and promote unity and not let personal wants/desires intrude!

Jesus expected the church to be united - Acts 2:42f and that this would draw many to salvation!

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## Ministry Opportunity

Are we promoting all of the se in the church of God or do we stand in the way of these?

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## LIFEgroup Notes

Each Key teaching will be followed by a LIFEgroup