

Together by Design: God's Plan for His Church

Metaphor #3 "Field"

May 23, 2021

The church is where the Holy Spirit brings together believers in Jesus according to God's design.

INTRODUCTION—To learn more about fields, ask a farmer!

1. The field-church at Corinth was **unproductive** (3:1-4)
 - a. **Immature**
 - b. Fleshly; worldly
 - c. Stuck in **conflict**
 - d. Divided
 - e. **Selfish**; consumer mentality
2. God's field-church is designed for spiritual growth (3:5-9)
 - a. God has no **favorite** field-church servants
 - b. The Lord **assigns** tasks to His field-church servants
 - c. God causes **growth**; we are His demonstration plot
 - d. God's field-church servants have one purpose
 - e. God **owns** every field-church; He leases none
3. What should our field-church be doing?
 - a. Repent of our **hardness** (Hosea 10:12; Heb. 6:8)
quote from AW Tozer's article "Miracles Follow the Plow"
 - b. **Humbly** accept His word (James 1:21)
 - c. Eagerly expect His **blessing** (Heb. 6:7; James 5:7-9)

*Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until he comes
and showers his righteousness on you (Hos. 10:12)*

On Your Own (better with a friend)

1. agree/disagree
A field is a passive metaphor of a church; a field-church lies there and God does all the work.
2. READ Isaiah 5:1-2 Make a list of the positive things that God provided for His vineyard-people.

3. READ Isaiah 5:3-4 After all that God did for His vineyard-people, what did he find?
4. READ Isaiah 5:5-6 Make a list of the things God said he would withhold in judgment on His vineyard-people.

5. READ Isaiah 5:7 What was God looking for and what did He find instead?
6. REFLECT on the teaching of Isaiah 5:1-7 and suggest some possible applications to God's field-church. What is the ROI (Return on Investment) that God expects from our church?
