



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

HIS HOUSE - WEEK 1

OPENING & PRAYER:

The series title "His House" centers the church as a living, breathing organism—the visible expression of God's kingdom on earth. The Greek word ecclesia frames the church as the "called-out" assembly and the house of the Lord, both a gathered place and the collective body of believers. Three primary purposes drive its existence: glorify God, edify the family of God, and evangelize the world. Locally, that mission flows through a clear pathway: lost people are saved, saved people receive pastoral care and freedom, pastored people receive training to discover gifts and calling, and trained people mobilize to reach others.

"Lord, thank you for the opportunity to lead in Your Kingdom. We ask for guidance as we step out in faith to lead those around us. Let us be a blessing to them and help guide them to you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,” **Ephesians 3:10-11**

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **John 1:11-12**

“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!” **Ephesians 1:5 TLB**

“to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” **Ephesians 3:21**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” **1 Corinthians 12:27**

“but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” **1 Timothy 3:15**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” **Ephesians 5:25**

As he (Saul) journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” **Acts 9:3-5**

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. **Matthew 16:27**

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” **Revelation 22:12**

You are Peter, a stone; and upon this rock I will build my church; and all the powers of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven;

whatever doors you lock on earth shall be locked in heaven; and whatever doors you open on earth shall be open in heaven!" **Matthew 16:18-19**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. **Psalms 92:12-15**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:23-25**

GO DEEPER:

The local church functions uniquely to meet the soul's deepest needs—support, strength, awe, worth, and significance—while also serving as the pillar and ground of truth in the earth. Worship and encounter form practical means for people to experience God; sound and atmosphere play pragmatic roles in enabling authentic participation. Corporate conduct matters: the house of God expects behavior that honors the assembly and protects others' access to truth, avoiding needless distractions so the word can minister freely.

Twelve theological reasons undergird affection for the church: it is God's idea, God's family, eternal in scope, Christ's body, the pillar of truth, a place demanding reverent conduct, loved and purchased by Christ, protected by Christ, uniquely equipped to meet human needs, a venue for earthly investment with eternal reward, the only entity Christ promised to build, and the place of spiritual nourishment. Authority and spiritual warfare arise through the church's identity; Christ builds the church, unlocks heaven's doors, and resists the powers of hell toward it. Practical discipleship emerges from steady rhythms—daily prayer, weekly gathering for worship and the word, and regular service—which cultivate rooted spiritual growth.

The concluding challenge reframes participation as privilege: being part of God's house places people into an eternal project with measurable spiritual fruit. Those planted in the house of the Lord receive nourishment, grow strong, bear fruit over time, and participate in the unfolding of God's redemptive purpose across generations.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. The Church is God's eternal design. The church originates from God's purpose, not human invention. That divine authorship gives the church an authority and a mission that outlasts cultural shifts and organizational failures. Aligning personal life with what God builds anchors spiritual formation in eternal purposes rather than temporary preferences. **[22:07]**

2. The Church forms a spiritual family. Believers receive adoption into God's household, which redefines belonging beyond biology or nationality. Family language shapes pastoral care, mutual responsibility, and sacrificial love—expectations that reform how people shepherd one another. The church's familial identity resists isolation by embedding members into relational rhythms of care and correction. **[23:23]**

3. The Church builds and equips believers. Christ promises to build the church; where God builds, people grow. Investing life around that construction—serving, teaching, and receiving ministry—turns local participation into personal formation. Rooting growth in the church's mission prevents sporadic faith and produces sustainable maturity. **[38:57]**

4. The Church meets deepest human needs. No secular institution satisfies the full set of inner longings—support, strength, wonder, worth, and significance—like a healthy church can. The church integrates truth, ritual, community, and service to address soul-level deficits that jobs or hobbies never will. Engaging these elements intentionally yields resilience and purpose that translate into everyday life. **[37:06]**

5. Assemble, serve, pray regularly. Spiritual flourishing tracks with steady spiritual habits: daily prayer, weekly worship and teaching, and monthly service. These practices root identity, sharpen calling, and produce fruit across decades rather than seasons. Consistent rhythms turn fleeting enthusiasm into generational legacy. **[45:10]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. The sermon mentions that the church is uniquely equipped to meet humanity's deepest needs. Why can't other institutions fulfill this role? **[37:06]**
2. According to Matthew 16:18, who is building the church, and what is the outcome of that building?
3. How does the sermon describe the relationship between Jesus and the church? **[33:44]**
4. The church is meant to be a place where believers are "stirred up, built up, and cheered up." Who in your life needs that kind of encouragement this week, and how can you intentionally provide it?
5. In what practical ways can you serve the church this month to help advance its mission? **[46:14]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. Please lead our families to come together spiritually through prayer, church and serving together on a regular basis. Guide them to their purpose and ministry. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."