SERMON NOTES

IMMANUEL CHURCH

WE ARE THE CHURCH: God Is Not Finished With Us

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

SPEAKER: Kyle Corbin | **DATE:** October 25, 2026

OVERVIEW

Paul begins his letter to the Corinthian church by reminding them of God's grace before addressing their problems.

1. **Our Identity Begins with God's Grace (1:1-3)**

   The Church Belongs to God
   It is His people, His work, and His mission—not the possession of a particular leader, personality, program, or tradition.

   Identity Comes Before Behaviour
   Our identity is received before it is expressed. God calls us by grace, and we learn to live as the people He has called us to be.

2. **God's Grace Gives Us What We Need To Grow (1:3-7)**

   Every Good Gift Comes From God
   Our abilities, knowledge, experience, and spiritual gifts are gifts of grace, not reasons for pride.

   The Church Is Called To Mutual Service
   Instead of asking what we can get from the church, we should ask: "How has God equipped me to contribute to this community?"

3. **God's Faithfulness Is Our Confidence For The Future (1:8-9)**

   God Has Not Abandoned His People
   The Corinthians had serious issues to address, but God remained faithful amidst their failures.

   We Are Still Being Formed
   As we continue to struggle with recurring sins and damaged relationships, spiritual progression may seem slow, but God has not lost sight of the end toward which He is leading us - the completion of His work in the world and in our lives.

3 TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

1. **We belong to God by grace**
2. **We have been equipped by God to serve**
3. **We can trust God to finish what He has begun**

QUESTIONS

Use for community group discussion or personal reflection

GO DEEPER

1. What stood out to you from the sermon this week?
2. When you know a difficult conversation is coming, how do you usually react?
3. Why do you think Paul starts with grace instead of jumping straight into correction?
4. What is the practical difference between saying "I must clean up my life so God accepts me" versus "Because God accepts me, I want to live differently"?
5. Out of the above two mindsets, which one do you find yourself slipping into more often?
6. Paul notes that believers use their gifts while "eagerly waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed." How does the hope of Christ's return change the way you view the everyday joys and struggles?

MOVE FORWARD

1. Why do you think we sometimes feel the need to pretend that we have everything together when we come to church?
2. How can we encourage one another to pursue holiness without making each other feel like we have to earn God's approval?
3. Verse 9 states that God has called us into "fellowship with His Son." What does daily walking with Jesus look like to you beyond just following a set of rules or attending church events? If you can, be specific.