

# ***GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST***

## ***Sermon by Ray Reynolds***

### ***The Church of God's Dreams***

**Introduction:** In several locations the Bible talks about God's foreknowledge or his predetermined purposes for sending Christ and preparing for the establishment of the church. You get the idea that God dreamed of the day He would set the captives free, spiritually. But just what has God dreamt of in reference to the church? Here are some things that He expects to have His dreams fulfilled for the church. . . . .

#### **Discussion:**

- I. God's dream is for a church that cares (Luke 10:25-37, I Peter 3:8).***  
We need to be compassionate, loving, merciful, forgiving, and genuine in our Christian service.
- II. God's dream is for a church that lifts up Christ in the community (John 4:27-30, John 12:32).***  
We need to have edification and evangelism on the top of our priority list.
- III. God's dream is for a church that bears fruit (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23).***  
We need to be looking for ways do good works and serve people.
- IV. God's dream is for a church that has spiritual leadership (Acts 20:28-38, I Timothy 3:1-13).***  
We need to have biblical, dynamic, visionary leaders that will be effective in ministry.
- V. God's dream is for a church that uses their talents to His glory (Ephesians 4:11-16, I Peter 4:10-11).***  
We need to find our talents and use them to the glory of God.
- VI. God's dream is for a church that is a family of believers (I Thessalonians 1:1-10, I John 3:1).***  
We need to become better acquainted with each other and have more fellowship.
- VII. God's dream is for a church that dares to be different (Hebrews 10:19-25, I Peter 2:9).***  
We need to be bold, prayerful, and positive in our approach to ministry.

**Conclusion:** Can you declare that you are following God? Have you done everything that God has required of you? Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17**), believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (**John 8:24; Acts 4:12; 16:31; Hebrews 11:6**), repented of your sins (**Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30**), confessed the deity of Christ (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37-38**), been baptized for the remission of your sins (**Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Colossians 2:11ff; Galatians 3:24ff; I Peter 3:21**), or are you walking in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-7, II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 2:10**)? Can you say that you are doing your part to be the church of God's dreams? What can we do to help you today?