

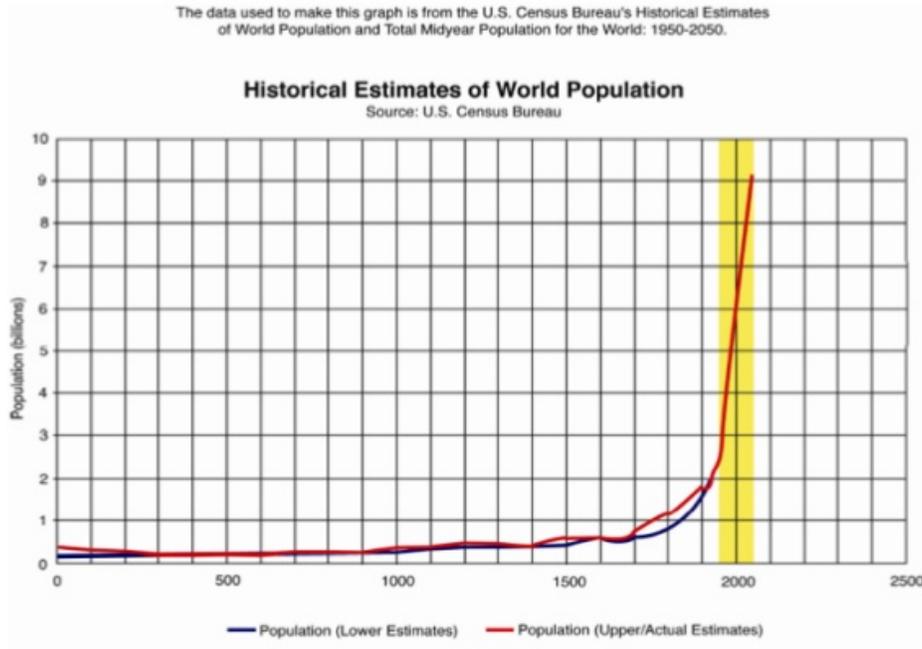
“God’s Heart for His House”

Acts 7:49 NIV

...**What kind of house** will you build for me? says the Lord.

80% of churches in the USA are plateaued or declining

Over 5000 churches are closing their doors each year in the USA



Those who serve others will be **rewarded** at the resurrection of the righteous

Luke 14:12-24 NLT

“When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. ¹³ Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

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Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ’s Church of Marion County

April 30, 2017

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Parable of the Great Feast

¹⁵ Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

¹⁶ Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared **a great feast** and sent out **many invitations**. ¹⁷ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all began **making excuses**. One said, ‘I have just **bought a field** and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹ Another said, ‘I have just **bought five pairs of oxen**, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰ Another said, ‘**I just got married**, so I can’t come.’

²¹ “The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘**Go quickly** into the **streets and alleys** of the town and invite the **poor**, the **crippled**, the **blind**, and the **lame**.’ ²² After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is **still room for more**.’ ²³ So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge **anyone** you find to come, so that the house will be full. ²⁴ For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’”

The host is **God**

The invited guests picture the **Jewish Nation**

The banquet is the **Kingdom**

The other people invited to the banquet are non-Jewish, the **Gentiles**

God wants His house to be **full**

“God is more willing to save sinners than sinners are to be saved.” John MacArthur

God’s Heart and God’s House is for **EVERYONE**

Luke 2:10 NLT

“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to **all people**.”

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John 3:14-17 NLT

“...as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that **everyone** who believes in him will have eternal life.

¹⁶“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone** who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

The blessings of the kingdom are available to all who will come to Christ by **faith**.

You have a **choice**

John 3: 18 NLT

“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.

Joshua 24:15 NLT

“...choose today whom you will serve. as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

Extend the **invitation**

Matthew 19:19 NLT

Love your neighbor as yourself.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NLT

God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

God’s **grace** is amazing

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Psalm 103:12 NLT

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.