

Gifts from God No. 5.

THE CHURCH

The world doesn't bless humanity with purity, justice, peace, joy, enlightenment.

No! The world is off-centre, adrift, out of touch, out of control. Why were millions of people slaughtered in the last century alone? Simply because the world is constantly at war with itself.

It is the Christian Church that has taken centre stage on our planet. A brief glance at history proves it.

First, in *Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Frank E. Gaebelin writes, “Broadly speaking, it may be said that almost the whole of education in the Western world from the first until the nineteenth century was in one way or another Christian.”

Second, see the breathtaking spin-offs (not confined just to the West) – deliverance from superstition and fear of evil spirits, stable governments, founding of universities, world leadership in science and technology, promotion of basic human rights and worldwide spread of the gospel, together with the highest code of ethics known to man.

Third, world affairs demonstrate daily that only where Church influence remains unfettered is there true enlightenment, justice and liberty, including freedom from want and freedom of speech and religion.

God's Church is central – and the world hasn't even noticed!

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**“The church . . . is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church.”
– Ephesians 1.22 (The Message)**

Ken Packer