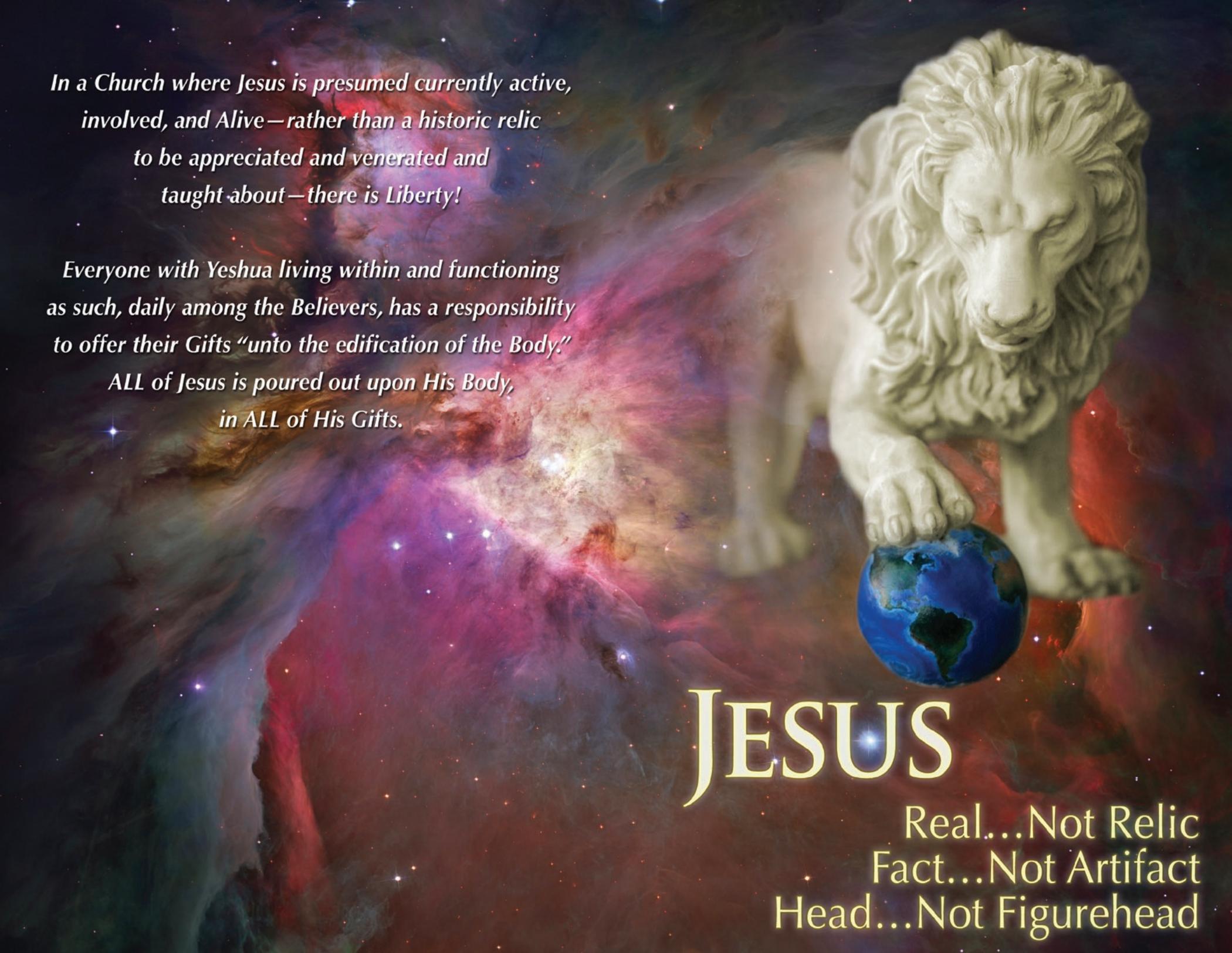


*In a Church where Jesus is presumed currently active,
involved, and Alive—rather than a historic relic
to be appreciated and venerated and
taught about—there is Liberty!*

*Everyone with Yeshua living within and functioning
as such, daily among the Believers, has a responsibility
to offer their Gifts “unto the edification of the Body.”*

*ALL of Jesus is poured out upon His Body,
in ALL of His Gifts.*



JESUS

Real...Not Relic
Fact...Not Artifact
Head...Not Figurehead

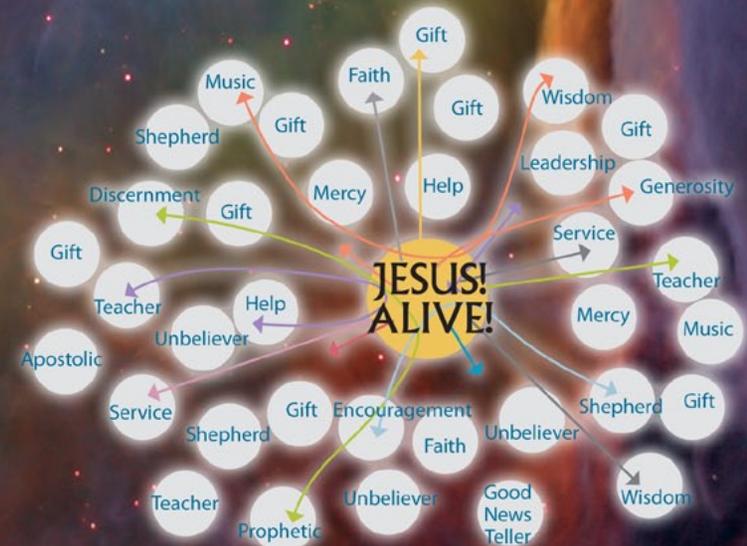


As always, if we can help you in any way, please contact the church here at P.O. Box 68309, Indianapolis, IN 46268 USA.

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HIS INVITATION

Prepare yourself, Bride!

The invitation of God to all of the world is to be a Home together for the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—to be a Bride that has made herself ready for the return of her beautiful Groom, Jesus (John 13-15, Eph. 2-5, Rev. 19:7). If you think about the picture in the Scriptures of how life for and with Christ culminates—what is it? *It's a courtship—and a wedding supper!* God is appealing to us, saying, “I have this confidence about Myself. If you will be with Me and take a look at who I really am, there will be no other suitors who compare. There is nothing else in the whole universe that will win your heart like I can—because I made you for Me. Other things have distracted you, but if you will just take the time and step up alongside Me, you will see what life was meant to be. And we'll have a wedding!

“So, prepare yourself, Bride.”

From the beginning of time, this invitation has brought people to seek Him. That's His invitation for us, too. That's what it's all about. This is not some external doctrinal thing. It's a drawing and a wooing of what's inside of us. It's us looking at all that He is and saying, "I can't live without Him or what is precious and important to Him! I don't want to live without that! I would never dream of living outside of His will for my life or outside of His purposes. I want to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Whatever He wants for my life, He's got it! He's the Bread of Life, where all my nourishment and fulfillment are found. He's that picture of leadership and kindness and forgiveness and mercy that I can't live without—*that I don't ever want to live without!* I want to see Him strong. I want to see Him severe. I want to see Him kind. I want to see Him loving and compassionate. I want to see Him wise beyond words. AND, I WANT TO BE WITH HIM! I want to hear every word He has to say. I don't ever want to be more than a step away from Him the rest of my life. I cannot turn my back on Him because of my own selfish pride or laziness or hurt feelings. I can't turn my back on Him. The temptation is there, but the loss is too great.

Jesus has all these qualities. He is perceptive in 1,000 different ways and wise beyond words. This is our Master. This is Jesus. This isn't some fairy tale. This isn't some story out there about some god that created the earth and sits on a big white throne. This is about the person of Jesus and His Father who rule over us. If we will just look, if we will take the time to encounter Him, there is absolutely no way to resist Him any longer. The problem has been a lack of willingness to abandon ourselves into His very capable and loving hands. His trustworthiness is beyond belief. But we don't always get close enough to see it because we make ourselves a little too busy, too selfish, too careless—and just won't take the time to be dazzled and wooed by Him.

Father knows that if we will take the time to be with Him in His Son, then He will demonstrate His character to us in such a way that He will be absolutely irresistible. The qualities of His character are staggering. There is something about being with Him that will catapult you out of all the other things that you are encumbered

and dragged down by. Suddenly you are dazzled by something that is outside of the realm of your normal flow of experience. That's JESUS! And, He is inviting us to come walk with Him. He will dazzle you with all His qualities of kindness, mercy, and everlasting forgiveness.

You'll see His smile and the gleam in His eye. You'll see how the wind blows through His hair. You'll see and hear and experience things that take you to another realm, and time won't exist there anymore (Rev. 1:12-18). You will see His leadership and His strength. You will see how He has a resolve against sin. You'll see that He has a focus and a clear vision of what life is supposed to be. And you'll hear the depth of His laughter and feel the warmth of His encouraging embrace.

Come follow Him. He'll show you leadership. He'll show you strength. He'll show you an immovable character and quality of life that will dazzle you, that will make you want to come with Him because it's safe and secure where He is. He'll show you a kindness and a sensitivity that will see right into your heart and life. If you come to Him and lay down your miserable life full of yourself, then He'll wash you, and cleanse you, and put His Spirit inside of you. Then, He'll draw out the diamonds and the rubies and the jewels that are there. He'll draw those things out. He'll make you a queen; He'll make you a king.

He wants to build an army of followers, but it's not just some theoretical, logical, doctrinal issue—"Follow Me, or you'll go to hell." Well, that is true, but that has nothing to do with what Jesus came to show the twelve. Do you think they followed Jesus all over the countryside because He was wagging His finger at them and telling them to follow Him or they would go to Hell? Do you remember any scriptures like that? Is that what He did when He went and prayed to the Father all night? Did He say, "Father, show Me what I should say," and then stand up and say, "You twelve, you come with Me or you're going to go to Hell"? No. They *wanted* to be with Him because they saw something about Him that just amazed them. They saw His wisdom, kindness and patience.

They saw strong leadership and an unwavering character. They saw someone who could take the pummeling of life and stand tall with just a little corner of His mouth smiling in the face of it, with courage in His eyes. *And they wanted to be like Him—they wanted to be with Him!* They weren't going anywhere because there was nowhere else they wanted to be other than by His side (Matt. 4:19-22, John 6:68, Acts 5:20, Acts 3:19-20).

He didn't have to threaten them, and He's not threatening us either. He's inviting us to see Him for who He is and to see the amazing qualities and the amazing personality that He has...so that we would want to be with Him, in this life and the next. I want to be like Him when I grow up. I honestly do.

Before very long, Jesus will come back for His Bride made ready. And, the will of the Father for us is not to *attend* a bride, but to *be* a Bride...not to *attend* a house, but to *be* a House. If you go all the way back into the Old Testament, you see His desire has always been for a House, not just for saved people for His possession. His desire is for a habitation, a place where He could live on this planet that He created. Jesus told us in Luke 17 that His Kingdom is neither here nor there, but it is *within people who have enlarged the place of their heart*, pushing out the things of the world, carnal desires, appetites and ambitions. We must be those who have made room for Jesus in our hearts as Jesus taught in John 8. That's the nature of the Ekklesia, His living Body and Church.

Jesus did not just come to forgive sins, as wonderful as that is, nor just to make us think about His teachings. Jesus came so that we could experience the same life with the Father that He experienced—not just live here, die, and then go to heaven. As the Bible says, He came here so that we could live in “the power of an indestructible life” to experience the same fellowship and life and love with the Father and His brothers that Jesus did.

Getting “saved” is FAR from the end of the Story. As with Jesus' Birth, our Birth is ONLY the Beginning of a very powerful Story Father wants to tell in us (Col. 1:26-29, Gal. 4:19, John 7:38). His desire is

that Christ be formed in us, and that we (His People, His Bride, His House, His Ekklesia) would be the expression of the full glory of Jesus of Nazareth on planet Earth in this present day. God's desire is not just for individuals to be reflective of Jesus, but that TOGETHER, corporately, we would become an exact representation of Jesus.

And, the working out of these “unsearchable riches” has everything to do with how we live our lives together every day. Much of what religion and christianity have done for many years is teach us great teachings *about* Jesus and His Church. It is now time to move on from learning teachings *about* the church to *being* the church (Eph. 3:10, Matt. 16:18).

We can only BE His church and live His Life as we love each other and exchange our lives with each other every day. We help each other to know Jesus better by helping each other put away sin, loving one another more, and by caring for others' needs more than we care for our own. These are the teachings of Jesus. This is how He lived His life for us, and now He has called us to live this way for one another. This is *how* the Bride is “made ready” for the return of her Groom, Jesus. We become more and more beautiful as we learn how to truly *love each other more*. As we put away our selfishness and pride that keep us separate from each other, and as we willingly open our hearts to be vulnerable with each other, then the Spirit of God, the Grace of God and the Love of God pour out on us...and we become a beautiful Bride READY for the return of our Groom, Jesus.

This is a Church—to live this way every day, not *attending* the house of God, but *being* the place where God Lives. Then our homes, our workplace and our Church all become one. There are no more barriers from my heart to yours and no more barriers between my home and yours. I put away selfishness, pride, laziness and unbelief, and I love others as Jesus has loved me. When everyone does that, from the least to the greatest, Jesus pours out His healing oil, and we are a Church, a beautiful Bride. Jesus did not come to make us smarter. *He came to give us Life to the full—to experience His Life daily in one another, not to say borrowed words and sing and pray stained-glass religious words. LIFE!*

JESUS:

Builder and Designer

Building With Good Materials

What is a Church and a Christian?

The Bible teaches that God does not dwell in houses built by men's hands. Ephesians 2 and many other Bible passages say that *we* are the dwelling place or the habitation of God by the Spirit—the Church. When you walk or drive down the road, you can usually identify a religious building because it looks like a religious building. But, since a true Church is made out of people, *and is not a building*, then what does it *really* look like? How would you recognize the difference between a true Church and a false one?

In the “church” of the Old Testament, you became a member because of who your parents were (Jews). If you basically believed the right thing and your parents were part of this church, and you “attended church” regularly and tithed, then you were a member of the “church.” *In the New Testament Church of Jesus, this is not true—you must give your heart to God.* The prophecy about the New Testament said that the Church God builds (Jer. 31, Heb. 8, Heb. 10) is the true Church, and *from the least to the greatest ALL its members will know the Living God.* The Church can ONLY be understood in this way. Anything less may be well-meaning and do-gooding and religious (with some Saved people involved), but it is NOT the Church of Jesus Christ, a local Lampstand, if it is just people “attending” something scheduled on the calendar with no daily intertwined Life-together (1 Cor. 12).

A true Church made of living stones that Jesus looks at and loves must be made of good materials. If any building is built out of faulty materials, you know that it will fall. If the wood that holds up the roof is rotten, it will fall down. Bricks that are soft, improperly made, or made from the wrong materials cannot support weight and will fall down. Likewise, if we try to build God's house out of faulty materials, it too will fall. If a person does not truly *know* God, they cannot be a member of Jesus' Church. If the House that God is making out of men and women is going to be able to stand, it must not have bad stones in it (1 Cor. 3-5).

Must the Church, or its individuals, then, be perfect? Of course that is not possible (1 John 1). But according to the Word of God, what IS required is this: One hundred percent of the members...“love the Light” and “love the Truth” and have genuinely experienced God Himself in a way that “flesh and blood has not revealed.” YES, *this is required* (Matt. 16:16-18, John 3:19-21, 1 John 1-3, Eze. 11:19, Eze. 36:26, Jer. 31:34). That's what Jesus said He would build HIS Church upon, if it was to be HIS Church. Anything else would be like building a house with soft brick or rotten wood. The House that Jesus makes is the best house in the world, and Jesus will only use true and good materials to build His House.

Once again, this does NOT mean that every person is perfect. But, it does mean that every person wants to love and obey Jesus and doesn't despise help from others who want to help them love and obey Jesus; they want that help. Good building material for God's House is when a person “loves the light,” according to Jesus Himself. Bad building material, like rotten wood, is someone who does not want that help. That person says, “Don't judge me. Mind your own business.” They say defensively, “Get the log out of your own eye.” That is bad building material, which God said is unacceptable in His House. Jesus will not build His house that way. That is rotten wood and will be completely cut off from among the people (Acts 3:23, Matt. 18, 1 Cor. 5). In a True church, a person who acts that way is not welcome. It doesn't matter how much money they have or how well they know their Bible. They might even be a “leader,” but if they don't respond softly to the teachings of Jesus, then they

cannot be a part of Jesus' true Church that is made in the Spirit. If they resist love and pleading, wisdom, help and patience, then to allow them to continue amongst God's People would be for us to defy Jesus also by ignoring His commands.

If someone is saved, they WILL have the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9, Gal. 3, Eph. 1). And the PROOF that they have the Holy Spirit in them (no matter how many times they tell you a great “testimony” and say, “Lord, Lord!” Matthew 7) is that they love to obey. They are new creations and now love the Light, and love the Truth (2 Thess. 2:10), and “like newborn babies” they “crave” the Word of God *to be applied in their lives* (1 Peter 2). If a person has the Holy Spirit, they will love the Light and love the Truth...and then their behavior will begin to change. They repent of how they treat their husband or their wife, and they change. They repent of how they treat their coworkers, or their children, or their neighbors, and they change. They repent of their past sins and wicked habits, and they change and become more mature.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is the deposit that guarantees their inheritance. “This is the verdict,” says Jesus, in John 3. This is what separates innocent from guilty. Not that everyone is perfect, but the ones who have their sins forgiven ALL “love the Light.” They have the gift of the Spirit that they didn't have before. Now, from deep inside, their hearts of stone have become soft hearts of flesh. From deep inside, God is causing them to keep His commands and decrees. From deep inside, they care about Jesus' words about their behavior. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice because they have the Spirit of Jesus. The sheep say, “I want to follow Jesus! Lead me that way.” The goats say, “Leave me alone! I can do miracles! I can give my money to the poor! I know things. I'm better than you, and I don't care what you say.”

A Christian, a partaker of the New Covenant, loves the Truth (2Thes. 2:10) and loves the Light (Jn. 3:19-21), and is now a “partaker of the DIVINE nature” (2Pet. 1:4, Rom. 6:1-14). That's the proof that the Spirit lives in them or in any of us. We don't have to just take everyone's word for it just because they say, “Lord!

Lord!" ***ONLY a person who has abandoned their self and life to Jesus, and have thus been Touched by Heaven and Indwelt by the Creator of the Galaxies is truly saved, and a "member" of His local Church*** (Rom. 8:9-11, Lk. 9:57-62, Jn. 1:12-13, 3:16-21, 1Jn. 3:8-10, 5:18-20).

A True Lampstand, an authentic Church, is LIMITED TO (as in 100% of the "members"!) those who have had a revelation of the Son "that flesh and blood did not reveal, but the Father in Heaven Himself revealed to them." It's not about proximity or knowledge or "commitment" or upbringing. It's about a personal Encounter with Father God, in the Person of His Son, where death produces God kind of Life, *Zoe* Life, out of nothing (Jn. 3:5-8, Jn. 12:24, Rom. 6:1-14, Gal. 6:14-17). Of course there are a few who need "special modesty" and others who are deciding in their "one more year" (John 13:8-9, John 15, 1 John 2:19, Jude 11-25).

We either have SUPERNatural Life with Him and with one another, or it's NOT Biblical Christianity and NOT a legitimate Church. Surely there are some Saved people "attending" organizations that are not truly Churches, though they call themselves churches. That's a different topic. We're simply saying that we won't touch His Throne (we'll only touch our "*psuche*" warm fuzzy emotions) if we do not live together in daily Together-ZOE Life—moment by moment connected to the Head and one another! A "service" ceremony that is "done in His honor," or to learn facts about Him, or to call down emotion from Heaven with our music—historically, these have changed very few lives into the Image of the Son. We are either sharing in the Substance of the GodHead together daily, or it is not Eternal Life, nor a Lampstand and Church, as God means it to be. "A little leaven leavens the WHOLE batch."

We must not be just babies who say the right things, but don't live like Jesus. And, the Church is not a collection of counterfeit Christians who say the right things but don't have the Spirit of Jesus living inside of them, as a Person. Jesus is a great Builder. He will not build with soft stones or rotten wood. He wants to build a Glorious House to live in—one that's fitting for the King that

He is. So the building materials in God's House must be of the best quality. A true Church that is made by God, not by man's hands, is made out of living stones—true Christians—as opposed to dead stones, bricks or straw. Jesus will only build with good building materials. If we have married Him in Covenant and Oath, turned from all other loves, been Born twice, have soft hearts, love His teachings, truly want to change the things in our lives that need to change, and turn our face to Him in moments of adversity or difficulty, asking Him and our brothers and sisters to help us, then we are beautiful living stones for the House that Jesus dwells in. We can be and will be a glorious Bride for Jesus. This is the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Building by His Pattern and Design

Daily Life Together

Now that we have defined what are good building materials for God's House...consider this: Suppose we take all the good stones, all the good wood, and all the good, suitable building materials that Jesus chooses for His House and heap all those good materials in a pile. Guess what? We still don't have a house. God's House requires even more than just good building materials (true Christians). Just because you have all the materials for a house heaped in a pile does not mean you have a house to sleep in. That pile won't protect you from the storm, no matter how good the materials may be.

*In order to be a good House for Jesus to live in, God's House must be built together using His **pattern** and **design**. His House is made of people, His living stones, and **He has a way we must build our lives together**. Scripture calls Jesus the Master Architect. We should care deeply about His Blueprint, His Plan.*

God has many wonderful people all over the world. What has happened very often in the last 2,000 years is that these people have been desiring to change their lives and please Him, but they have been frustrated. They have been unable to find their full potential and really serve Him well. It is their whole heart, but they fail again

and again. The reason why they fail is because we have often built the wrong way. We have not built according to the pattern, the design, that God has given us. When anyone attempts anything, but attempts to do it in totally the wrong way, they will seldom find success, no matter how sincere they may be.

Jesus' House is built by *His* design, not ours. And His design is a "hundred fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters." His design is that we would "confess our sins one to another" and be healed. His design is that we would "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." His design is that we would be "one together, as He and the Father are one." God's desire is not for separate stones that come together on Sunday to "attend" a speech or ceremony, but His desire is a family that is built together every day, intertwined in all areas of daily life, as Family.

Jesus has chosen for His House a design that looks the same in every country, no matter what the language or the culture. The design is that all of God's people lay down their lives to love and serve each other every single day, as a Family, together. The true church of Jesus, designed His way to be strong, must be a Family every day. They eat together from house to house, they serve each other and help each other in many ways every day. They speak God's word to each other daily to help them become more like Jesus. When they see sin, they go for a walk and talk about it together. They don't wait for "Sunday" to hear someone preach a sermon about it. God's Intent (Eph. 3:10, 1 Peter 2) is that we are all daily priests and ambassadors of God to one another and the world "as we rise up, sit down, and walk along the way."

We are all called to be priests for Jesus. We are all called to bear the word of God and help one another. This means that if you see your neighbor being selfish or angry, or if you see drinking, or pride that breaks Jesus' heart, then each of us will take responsibility to help each other change. This is for every day. It has nothing to do with Sundays. The true Church of Jesus is made of Living Stones, and the design of the House is every-day Family. It's not something that we "attend," but it is something that we are every day.

Do you see how all this is connected? ONLY WITH DAILY RELATIONSHIPS can you ever know if anyone loves the Light and the Truth, and is therefore a child of God. A few meetings a week will never allow anyone to know if someone loves the Light and is just weak, or if they hate the Light and therefore are not yet Saved. God's plan is a treasure in earthen vessels. God's plan is a priesthood of believers. God's plan is for His people to "admonish one another every day." As we truly live this out together, one benefit is that all of God's true children become more and more mature. Another result of walking together as God intended is that if someone doesn't love the Light, then they are exposed as a pretender. If they are uncorrectable, if they don't care what Jesus says about these things, if they get angry and arrogant, then they are exposed as being a counterfeit Christian. It becomes clear that they must not have ever really given their life to Jesus because the truth is one cannot have the Holy Spirit and not love the Light (John 3, 1 John 1, 3).

If we will build this way—changing our selfish or lazy lives, and truly learning how to love each other like family every single day, taking responsibility to serve and help each other with the word of God—then it will be a House that Jesus can live in and can love. It will be a House of good design that will be easy for Jesus and for all of us to live in and make our home in.

Jesus said that when we put His word into practice, when the storms come (and they will), then the house will stand. It will stand because it is built on the rock of "putting His word into practice," not just on thinking or singing about His word. If we only sing about it, pray about it and talk about it and don't change the way we live to obey His word with one another, then when the storms come, no matter how pretty the house may look, it will be flattened and destroyed. This is what Jesus promised in Matthew 7. So, be sure to build His way and DO something about His Truths. Obey them, and then the storms will not harm you.

In the same way a little bird or little rabbit hides underneath a rock when the storms come, you can hide in the shelter of Jesus' wing

if you will build the way He calls you to. The storms will shake the trees and move heavy things. They will crash and the lightning will strike. But if you will build Jesus' way and turn your face towards Him when they come, you will be held safe in the shelter of His wings. The violent storms will pass and the sun will shine. The birds will begin to sing again, and life will be fresh and new. It will be a very, very strong House of good Design. When the storms come and batter on the House, it will stand *because it has only good materials, and because the design is good*. There will be very little damage to this wonderful House, and we will all be safe. Just as Father was very specific about what materials and design Noah should use to build the Ark, so also Jesus has a plan for materials and design of His House. And His Plan is not, in the New Agreement, a holy man giving a speech to an "attendance based" organization of disconnected people. It is NOW "a hundred mothers, brothers, sisters"—deep, daily, intertwined, intimate, "from the least to the greatest" relationships of Light-lovers.

This is the good news of the Kingdom of Jesus. He said, "My Father has much zeal for the house being built." The Father strongly desires that we build His House His way. In many countries and cities very seldom is the house built the way Jesus wants it built. In almost every "church" in almost every country, there are people who come together with rituals and traditions and then go their separate ways living their lives however they please. Maybe they sin freely, or maybe they try not to. But it's not a house because they are not a Family, every day, together.

It is only when all the stones are stuck together, by the glue of practical love and vulnerability, and built by God's design, that it becomes a place that He can call home. Even if you are a pretty good living stone and try to live a holy life, you are still just one stone. If I put that stone on the ground, it still would not be a home for Jesus. He doesn't want just individual good stones to sit out in a field. We must make ourselves, even force ourselves, to stick together to other stones. Every day we must demand of ourselves that we be stuck together with the other stones, daily in God's design for a House... as we "rise up, as we sit down, as we walk

along the road" together. Washing the clothes together, and going to market together. As we work in the fields, make the bricks, cut firewood, or fix meals, let us do it *together* so that we will be one Family instead of many individuals or many families. It is in these "trivial" issues of daily life that we bond our Faith, Hope, and Love together. These daily tasks, lived out together as a Family, are the "windows of the soul" that allow us to truly wash each other in the water of the Word, rather than the make-believe religion of "attending" religious ceremonies and sing-alongs and holy man speeches. Jesus is not building anything but family.

Jesus said if you truly obey My will, you will have a hundred fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters—not a hundred neighbors, but a hundred very close family members. This is the will of God. These are the teachings of Jesus Christ—that He builds His house with good materials. Bad materials are not welcome if they won't change when they hear Jesus' words.

Building to Be Strong

Courage to Change

After ten years of being a Christian, most people in clergy-controlled, attendance-based religion are not very much stronger than they were after their first year. This is not good. If our one-year-old children grew to be ten but they were still not any stronger or wiser than when they were one, that would be very sad. If you had a ten-year-old child in your family who was still as weak as a one-year-old, and still couldn't walk or talk much better than a one-year-old—as a father or mother that would break your heart, wouldn't it?

How do you think our Father in heaven feels when all of His People should be strong and wise and "full of the Holy Ghost and full of wisdom," and "ought to be teachers by now" "no longer infants," doing the work of God... yet many of us are still no stronger than one-year-olds? This is true around the world, and it breaks God's heart. We can't sing enough songs or "preach" enough sermons

to change that, because we have not been building God's way in God's House.

God has designed His House to be built so that sin can be redeemed and crushed. God's way to "have church" allows relationships to be healed and sin and weakness to be removed. This is God's heart for His people around the world. We want to tell you how good people can reach their potential *now*. We can allow the gifts in the Body of Christ to be built together into a habitation of God, filled with God's glory. There is a way God wants us to be built so we can see sin's power broken in real life and no longer be slaves to all of our weaknesses. God's plan is to build relationships, not to have problems all the time. God has a wonderful way to build His House with wonderful people. Until now, religion in the world has usually built God's House wrong, with men as bosses and holy men, and "attending" meetings as their definition of "church." We have not known how to build, but now we must learn how to build. God said we must be "very careful how we build." There are special truths that have always been in your Bible that will change your life and change the way Church is expressed, in order to more highly exalt our King Jesus and see His Dream fulfilled!

God wants to build His House so we can all be stronger together. He wants to build His House so the gates of hell cannot prevail any longer. He wants to build His House so relationships can be healed. He wants to build His House so that He will be free to heal our bodies, our minds, and our souls. He wants to build His House so we can be strong and wise, and the Good News of Jesus can go forth, stronger than ever before.

Do you have the courage to hear these things? Will you obey the Word of God as you hear these things? Will you change your lives regardless of the cost? If you have the courage to obey and to risk, then please read on.



JESUS: *Leader and Head*

Jesus' Leadership *In All of His People*

False christendom has for many years pushed people down. It has taken a few people and pushed them up making some "leaders" rich and famous and powerful, while pushing most people down. In the United States, India, Poland, Romania, Brazil, and all around the world, there are "hero" Christians and "low" Christians. This is very wrong. Jesus said to the twelve apostles in Matthew 23 to "Call no man teacher, call no man father, call no man leader, call no man master, call no man 'rabbi,' call no man 'pastor,' call no man 'reverend'—for you are all brothers with one Father!" There are no "heroes" in True Christianity except for Jesus. There must be no official bosses who control the decisions, the money, and the people—except Jesus in and through His People together by His Spirit.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4 that when Jesus went to Heaven and sent His Spirit, He took parts of Himself and spread them out over the Body of Christ, the Church. Jesus took all the gifts that He had

(and Jesus had many spiritual gifts, didn't He?), and He gave them to His people as a whole. He didn't take all the gifts that He had and deposit them on the "pastor" or on one "man of God." The Scriptures say He took all of His gifts and gave them to His whole body. The Bible says the Spirit is deposited and given as a Gift, as the Spirit wills, over the whole Church. If you are truly a Christian, if you have truly forsaken your very life for Jesus, then the Holy Spirit gives *you* a very special gift.

And, your gift is part of Jesus. There are many kinds of gifts listed in the Bible. The Holy Spirit, for example, gives mercy as a gift. The gift of mercy is part of Jesus that He gave to some people. It is a supernatural gift. All of us should have mercy, shouldn't we? But there is supernatural mercy that is a gift of the Holy Spirit. And since all authority belongs to Jesus and every gift that each of us has is a part of Jesus, then we submit to the gifts that are in each of us because it is Jesus who deposited them.

In this way, leadership is in all of God's people. The Bible calls us a Kingdom of priests. The Bible does not say a Kingdom with priests, but a Kingdom of priests. There is not just a special group like the Levite priests of the Old Testament. In the New Covenant, all of God's people are supposed to be priests to one another. God's intent is not one special holy man who can give sermons. The Bible says that Jesus ascended on high and gave His gifts to *all* of His people. He made a *Kingdom* of priests. He put part of Himself in each of His people who are truly converted, young or old. That's why we need each other's gifts. We need *all* of Jesus' gifts! There are hundreds of gifts because ALL of Jesus was poured out on His Family. This is why Jesus said we are all to be brothers amongst brothers. We don't need one man and one gift standing in front of us anymore. We must not permit that anymore. All of His truly converted and Indwelt, living in consecrated daily Life with one another and observably His (Heb. 3:12-14)—ALL are Priests!

There is not some special authority that is in one "man of God" and everyone else just sits and watches. Because of the way men have built the church over the last 1800+ years, we have acted as if there

is only one gift—the gift of "pastor." (Or perhaps everyone else is allowed to have the "gift of giving money"!) But pastor/shepherd is only one gift! If we build wrongly, we all lose. If one man is pushed to the front to be the "pastor" and everyone else just sits and listens all the time, then no one gets to share your gift. They only get the "pastor's" gifts. That is too small and corruptible! If we want to see the greatness of God, and if we want to see all of our lives change and our children's lives change, we need ALL of Jesus. The gifts that each of the sisters and brothers have are part of Jesus. Even the children have gifts that are part of Jesus. We need all of those gifts in our lives. We are all brothers. God's heart is that the gift you have would be given to me and the gift I have would be given to you. We must not settle for just part of Jesus. Amen?

Do you see why we said you must have courage? Things must change! You can't keep doing what you have been doing. You are going to have to decide to use your gifts more and welcome others to do so also. You are going to have to decide to be obedient and to have courage. If you keep sitting in your chair or on the floor all the time and don't use your gifts more than you have been, your gifts will continue to dwindle away. "He who has been given a trust or gift must prove faithful." Do you remember what happened to the man who buried his talent? Jesus said, "You wicked, lazy servant." That's what Jesus says to us when we don't do what we are supposed to do. If I don't use my gift or if you don't use your gift, we are "wicked and lazy."

What if you were an Olympic runner lying in a bed and someone took a rope and tied it around you? Even though you might be a champion athlete, if you were there tied to the bed your muscles would shrivel, and you would eventually die. All your potential would be lost because you have been roped to a bed for months or years. Do you see how the traditions of men steal and rob the Word of God? The way we have built for over 1800 years in God's House has roped most of God's people to the bed! They have not been able to get up and run and fulfill their destiny because humans have built wrongly, not following the Word of God. If we build or structure the church in a way that exalts one man or a "staff" and

quenches others' gifts, we are criminals in the Heavenly Courts because of the damage and loss many will suffer because of "leaven in the batch" and un-used Gifts!

It's not usually because people are "bad" that we have been building wrongly. Mostly it's because we just didn't know how to build God's House by God's Design. For 1800 years, the Christian world has confused the issues of who is a Christian... who is a leader... what daily life is supposed to look like... and what meetings are supposed to look like. Our Father wants to restore these things to you in your lives now. Just as the Word of God had been neglected in King Josiah's day, and Truth was found buried in the rubble of men's kingdoms and traditions, so today God's Truths, so long ignored (but always in the Bible) can set men free. God will change your life miraculously and change everyone around you as a result. These are very powerful and precious truths. Whether there are few or many in your city or village, "God is not hindered to save by many or by few" as Jonathan, David's close friend, once said. "He who is given a trust must prove faithful." We must have the courage to do something about Truth we have ignored or disobeyed in the past. And He Himself will be your Shepherd, your Fortress, and your Rear Guard as you live boldly for Him.

Jesus' Leadership

Samuel vs. Saul

Of course, there are Gifts and leadership of various kinds in the Body of Christ (Eph. 4; Rom. 12; 1Cor. 12; 1Tim. 3; Tit. 1). Ephesians 4 not only talks about the maturity and depth of relationship possible in the Body of Christ, it also mentions the tools necessary to reach those ends:

"And He, Himself, gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature

of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, we might grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Without this Gifted leadership (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers), we will continue to be "tossed to and fro," and we will never fully experience true "joined and knittedness." That's *very* different, though, from what happens in the normal church-world thang. An "official this or that" is NOT God's Way. **And YES, it MATTERS!** Titles are forbidden by Jesus Himself. This, in itself, is one test of the "authenticity" of God's kind of leadership versus man's kind of leadership.

In countries all over the world, we have all made a very big mistake about leadership in the Church. In many places the person who studies the Bible in seminary or bible schools, or a good businessman or speaker, gets to be the leader or the "pastor." We have seen in India and other countries, many times, that the person with a bicycle who can also read is chosen to be the leader. This is not God's way! God's leadership is not based on who can read, or who knows the most, or who can speak the best, or who has the best business experience, or who has wealth or education or charm or good looks or a bicycle.

Let me describe to you two very different kinds of leaders. One is a leader from the heart, out of a current relationship with God. Another is a leader by position who may have a title and may be the official "head person," the official boss. Jesus said that a leader by position *must not be so*. The leaders of the Church are those who are walking most closely with God TODAY. If a brother or sister is not walking closely with God today, he may not be considered very much of a leader. If a person last week perhaps was not so close to

God but has repented of the sin in his life and now is better able to hear God, he is more of a leader this week than he was last week. “Being a leader” comes out of relationship with God and God’s people. It is not out of an office or a title. We have many leaders in the city where I live, but we have no “officers.” A leader this week may not be a leader next week. Jesus said all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to HIM. This is still true. So, as much as we can hear Jesus, who has all authority, that’s how much authority a man has—only as much as he can hear Jesus. That’s all. “ALL authority in Heaven and on earth” belongs to Jesus, He said. A person who does not know or obey Jesus can only be a “figurehead.” Such a person may need to be obeyed as far as conscience allows, if they have a “position,” but they are only a “leader” in as far as they know, love, and obey the Head, Jesus.

There is actually an example in the Bible of these two very different kinds of leaders. Samuel and Saul were both leaders of God’s people, Israel. Samuel was a man of God who had influence in the nation because he knew God. Samuel had many of the qualities of a king in Israel—but Samuel wasn’t a king! However, Saul was called a king. Israel wanted to have a king—they wanted to have one man be the boss. They wanted someone to replace Samuel, and they wanted a “king” like the nations around them. In some ways the leadership might look similar, but Samuel did not have a “position” of authority. Samuel functioned out of his relationship with God, and Saul functioned out of his position/office. Samuel had no office, secretary, nor salary. He was not in a “staff position” as king. Samuel was just a man of God who was respected as much as a king, but he had no office or position. He was not a king. He was not a “pastor.” He just loved God with all his heart. And because he could hear God, he had influence. *He had no position...he had influence.* If a man truly knows God, he will help God’s people. If he is called by God, he will be helping people. I will say it again: a true man of God has no position... he has influence. Job, chapter 29, is a description of a man respected by God and men, and feared and hated by satan. Such a man needs no office or title or salary. If you are like Jesus, you will need no “power.”

As for Elders and Deacons, you will notice in the Scriptural Record that: 1) The qualifications are seldom met in our day and age (See 1Tim. 3 and Tit. 1), and never should a man be considered a shepherd/overseer/elder or a deacon/servant without meeting Biblically-mandated qualifications, of course. 2) Elders were never put in place by a congregation or vote, at any time in the Bible. 3) Elders were never put in place in any congregation at the early stages of a church’s Life together, but only after men had proven themselves to be already functioning as shepherds and teachers and fathers (1Jn 2:13) amongst God’s Family. Paul would leave a new group of Believers without overseers and come back and appoint those who were already *being* shepherds, out of love, gift and maturity. There were no “elders” in Jerusalem for probably a decade after the church had begun there. In the Scriptures, elders/shepherds/overseers and servants/deacons are not a “church institutional office,” as they are often done today.

As an example, if I am a carpenter, I build things with wood. I make a chair, a table, or a door out of wood if I’m a carpenter. If I’m a mason, then I make things with bricks. Something I made out of bricks is the proof that I’m a mason. Something I made out of wood is the proof that I am a carpenter. Well, in the Bible this word “pastor” (a poor translation, actually) refers to a gift of *shepherd*, functioning daily amongst God’s people alongside of other gifts—not a boss or “talking head” at a meeting. Where is the proof that I’m a pastor/shepherd? The proof is that I love God’s people! I help them day and night. I don’t need an office to do that. I don’t need a title. I don’t need to be boss. I just love people with the gift that I have, and I help them. The proof that I’m a carpenter is the chair I’ve made. The proof that I’m a pastor/shepherd is that I feed God’s people every day, and they are closer to Jesus because of me. If I see that one of God’s people is hungry, it breaks my heart. If I see that one of God’s people is in trouble or in danger, the shepherd’s heart inside of me runs after them to protect them. That’s the proof that I’m anointed of God to be a pastor. I don’t need a nametag. I don’t need a certificate on the wall and a diploma from a bible college. I need a heart to love and

to do God's work, and will therefore bear supernatural fruit in any area in which He may have gifted me.

So, you're a carpenter? Then make chairs. You have the gift of shepherd? Then love people—feeding them, protecting them, and helping them. This is true for *any* gift! The proof of any gift is in the *fruit* that it bears.

The opposite of all this is also true, of course. It's an amazing fact that pagans in science and medicine and industry actually demand that those with opinions and critiques and self-proclaimed "expertise" have something to show, some fruit in their own lives, to demonstrate that they have a right to pontificate or lecture or condemn others. In the religious world, amazingly, there is far less integrity than even the pagans demonstrate. In religion, however, people are often far more blind and prejudiced. Criticism, expertise, judgments, and even relationship sabotage and slander flow easily from those with terrible fruit in their lives, families, and assemblies. Utterly amazing, but true, if you watch man's religion carefully and honestly. A person who does such things as lie or slander or act like an expert in engineering, or medicine, or business can actually be imprisoned. But, in religion they easily can gather an audience amongst the fearful or naive or those who can be coerced, blackmailed, or flattered into submission to the unfruitful machine and "experts." Weird, but true. It happens all the time, because that's how faulty empires keep their numbers. Fear and flattery, gossip, innuendo, slander, or emotional blackmail. No wonder Jesus didn't do well in the accepted religious world of His day. But, we can learn from Him and embrace the Scripture, and look for Fruit, not hear-say with agendas and hidden skeletons, budgets, and egos to protect.

Well, you get the idea. :)

Jesus' Leadership

In Meetings

Another thing we must have the courage to change is to have meetings like the Bible describes in 1 Corinthians 14: "When you come together, brothers, and the whole Church is together, let everything be done for the building up of the Body. Every one of you has a word of instruction, a song, a revelation." When we live that way, even the unbeliever falls on his face and cries out, "God is among you!"

There is no boss except Jesus! "Call no man leader, master, teacher, or pastor. You are all brothers." You all have Jesus and He is equal in each of us. Certainly there will be maturity differences, and some gifts are more "public," while other gifts are more quiet or less visible in public settings. But, all are available and have opportunity. Sometimes we need the mercy of Jesus and sometimes we need the teaching of Jesus. Sometimes we need the songs of Jesus and sometimes we need the help of Jesus to solve problems. But it's all equally Jesus. Please do read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40. There is no one in charge except for Jesus Himself.

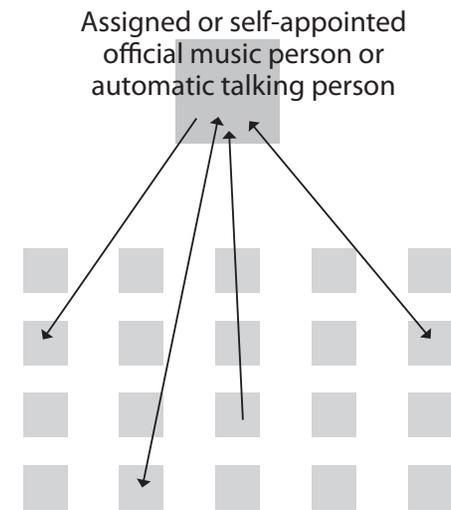
We gather together having "considered how we can spur each other on toward love and good works" (Heb. 10:24-26). We must give thought and prayer about how we can help each other when we do come together, and each of us takes responsibility to be a bearer of the Word of God and the Love of God. No "special person" is "automatically" expected to do anything—except listen and respond to God like everyone else.

If someone brings a teaching from Jesus and others come with a word of instruction or song or revelation; if this brother or sister is sharing something that Jesus showed them and revelation comes to a second person, the first one "sits down"—if we are responding to God's command, rather than the traditions of men. The Bible has always said, "When revelation comes to the second person, LET THE FIRST ONE SIT DOWN!" That's what it says in 1 Corinthians 14. This is not popular with those who "love to be first" and love to

be in charge and viewed as the “most spiritual” and take the money of the saints. We have inherited a heavy load of traditions from the roman catholics and from our “protestant” and “denominational” and pagan forefathers. The “priest” or “pastor” or MC or CEO is up front, talking to the “lesser” laity—all the poor people, all the audience—just sitting and listening. This is likely the practice and “doctrine” that Jesus said He hated—that of the “Nicolaitans” (translated as those who “conquer His People”). But GOD has said all of that must change, for His sake and ours.

From a practical standpoint, I want to suggest to you that if we really want to honor the gifts that are in each of us, and draw out the gifts that are in all of God’s People, then we need to change many things. As silly as it sounds, one of those things may be how we sit when we are gathered together. When Jesus was here, He had a circle of people around Him. “To those seated in the circle around Him—these are my mothers, my brothers, my sisters” (Mark 3). Seated in a circle around Him! Isn’t that the most natural thing to do, when we are gathered to hear HIM, and not a mere man with limited gifts? This may sound very simple to you, and it may not even sound very important, but I assure you it is. I’ve heard that the words for “pulpit” and “flesh” are pronounced the same way in French.

When we sit with everyone facing the front, it brings all the attention to one man. We are not equals amongst equals any longer. I am subservient to whoever has taken the throne in front of me as my master, or the conductor or facilitator or traffic cop or expert of the “class” or “service.” When we set the chairs in rows instead of a circle seated around Jesus, it’s like turning a spotlight on one man. Everyone else is just an audience and one mere man is the attraction. That is very wrong because there are many gifts amongst us, and they are all parts of Jesus. If we put everyone looking toward the front, we are exalting only one gift. How proud a man would have to be to allow himself always the “chief seat” or the spotlight.



In this model pictured above, typical of the religious models in institutions and “house churches,” there is some mere man officially “in charge” through whom everything must pass. He officially starts, officially ends, officially teaches or “assigns” the teaching or “worshipping.” He makes the decisions, answers the questions, and controls the “flow.” This is unBiblical (1Cor. 14:26) and far less than Fruitful. Leaven in the batch, quenched Gifts, and Jesus’ lost Lordship are all but guaranteed in this model. Also, such a “method” is never found in the Bible. That should be quite convicting.

The almost universal (to *all* “world” religions, including “cultural christianity”) clergy/laity caste system and pre-planned interactive “show” is not in the Bible, nor in God’s Heart and Mind. Jesus spoke out with clarity and forcefulness, and even name-calling, against a system filled with traditions and hirelings and those who elevate themselves over God’s People. Even the “Twelve Apostles of the Lamb” were to be just “brothers amongst brothers” in the “midst” of the Saints, not “over” them, according to Jesus Himself. God desires Samuel leadership, in the midst of Life, without title or position, but only love and gift, as needed. Otherwise, we are “rejecting God” by allowing and desiring a Saul type of “leadership”

model, according to God’s declaration to Samuel, and to His People. Of course, this is all a radical call compared to the traditions of men that most have been brain-dirtied by for their entire lifetimes. But, until we re-evaluate our ways by the Scriptures, we can only continue to get very lukewarm, leaven-filled results, as modern cultural religion always does.

Here is the essence of one issue we must reconsider: Are our times together “about” Jesus or “FROM” Jesus? Obedience and humility and liberty for ALL the Saints make all the difference! *“From Him and through Him and to Him are ALL THINGS!”* The man-made model of “attendance” and “holy man” christianity guarantees IMMENSE loss. Jesus does NOT get HIS Way in you, or through you, or to you as HE pleases when men control—with their “creativity” and power plays. The fear-based, or self-promotion, way is financially profitable and ego elevating for the clergy-caste. No wonder there is so much energy and name-calling when these things are presented to many of them. It is “the Stone the BUILDERS rejected that has become the Chief Cornerstone.” The “builders” are the ones with something to lose. Or at least they THINK they have something to lose, because they have not sufficiently trusted Jesus or His People.

Nevertheless, it is absolutely certain that Jesus forbids (Mat.23, etc) such man-made pyramid structures and ALL the religious titles that are so common today. It is shameful and a great loss because His Gifts are wasted, and His Voice is not heard. And this is true even if the “sermon” was “good” or Biblical, or the “music” was “Inspiring.” We’ll spare you the “statistics” of the bad “fruit” relating to modern christianity, in spite of “good sermons” and “inspiring music.” The attendance-based, clergy-controlled religion is not *from* Him, even if it is “for” Him. It makes all the difference as to whether “the gates of Hell prevail” or whether they are OVERCOME by His daily Life (1Cor. 12, Acts 2:42-47, Heb. 3:12-14). He wants to be HEAD of His Church, not the topic of those gathered in His Name.



So, what if instead all the gifts have an equal place? Perhaps there is someone with the gift of shepherd sitting in the circle. Maybe someone with a gift of teacher is sitting here and a gift of mercy sitting there. The gift of help may sit here and one with a gift of prophecy may sit here. All of the gifts have equal place because they are all Jesus!

As we already discussed, Paul in 1 Cor.14 clearly describes a time when “the whole church” is together. He describes the involvement of all of the Saints who have Jesus living inside. Christians, as described a few moments earlier in the letter (Ch.12), who are living daily together under His Lordship **should continue to live as Priests** when the church is together in one place. All have opportunity to respond to Jesus and His current Headship, as true Priests, whenever the church is together. There is no domineering or pre-appointed head religious men or women

delivering a pre-rehearsed canned speech or song show. This model of “when revelation comes to the second, let the first one SIT DOWN” is in keeping with the ONLY Picture in the New Testament of Jesus’ Headship in a Meeting in His “Kingdom of Priests.” All of the Gifts poured out upon the Body of Christ, the Church, can FUNCTION at ANY given moment. “When Revelation comes to the second, let the first one SIT DOWN!” saith the Lord. There is no place for controlling who or what may happen, choreographed in advance for oratorical or music, or entertainment, or control purposes.

In a Church where Jesus is presumed currently active, involved, and Alive, rather than a historic relic to be appreciated and venerated and taught about, there is Liberty. Everyone with Jesus living within and functioning as such *daily* amongst the Believers, has a responsibility to offer their Gifts “unto the edification of the Body.” ALL of Jesus is poured out upon His Body, in ALL of His Gifts—and any Gift may be needed at any given time. If a young man opens up about difficulties in the workplace, or a sister admits she has difficulty with the children, Gifts of Teacher, or Encouragement, or Shepherd, or Helps may all spring up, as “Revelation comes to the second!” This is the only “Picture” of a time when “the whole church is Together” in the Bible. And in this “picture” Jesus is allowed to be a LIVING Head of His own church, rather than a man-made organization, controlled by mere men.

Each person indwelt by the Living Christ must be Free to be moved and used by Jesus in response to what is currently happening. THAT alone is the “Body of Christ.” “Meetings” must then be the overflow of what is already happening every day in daily “house to house” Together-Life in Jesus. There must be a place for JESUS to rule and lead through His PEOPLE and His Gifts AT ALL TIMES, in homes and so-called “meetings.” Men will try to mimic this by throwing in a token “ministry time”—whatever that is—but staying in control themselves. Don’t accept any gimmicks when JESUS can instead live through all of His Gifts and People.



HIS heart of “a Kingdom of Priests”—with Jesus truly and practically as Head of His Body—is our topic here. And, of course, this discussion is not about some childish and unBiblical version of “amateur hour” and everyone “taking turns” and the “pooling of ignorance” and opinion, or “everyone is supposed to say something” and “if you spoke more than 5 minutes ‘last week’ then you can’t talk ‘this week,’ blah blah. Certainly His Church is not a “democracy.” His Church is to be a Theocracy where ANOINTING and GIFTS and HIS CURRENT THOUGHT Rule over our interactions in surprising and ever-changing, unplanned ways. At times (unplanned) one person may be responding to God out loud for a long period of time. But he is not “expected” to this time or ever.

However, the issue isn't "mandatory spontaneity" (though Jesus did in Mat.10:20 place value on trusting Father to provide **out of the overflow**, rather than anything premeditated AND canned (notice the word "and!" :). By "canned" I mean "unresponsive to a LIVING God." Still, in the context of Heb.10:25—there is Heb.10:24! "CONSIDER" how to spur others on when the Saints are to be together. In 1Cor.14, clearly "everyone" has a song or word of instruction available in the **overflow** of their hearts and lives. Everyone is flexible enough to "adjust" to what is CURRENTLY happening when the Saints are together and things are Happening, both in timing of "when" to say it, and content of exactly "what" needs to be Said. So, preparation is a GOOD thing, while flexibility of what or when or who or *whether* to say anything is still mandatory, if Jesus is Head. When saints gather they need to be FLEXIBLE, not so much mandatory "spontaneity." Whether Tuesday or Friday or anytime, in a living room or coliseum, whether that time was planned and decided upon five days before or 20 minutes before it happens, if we are prepared in LIFE, the reality of what Jesus wants to say or do IS our primary preparation for ANY time we're together with other Saints, whether on the tennis court or basketball court or during a cricket test. :) And, this is also true for times when all the Saints have a little "warning" that they will all be getting together. So! The issue isn't "spontaneity" as much as it is "OVERFLOW" of what God is *doing in us*, rather than "preparing a lesson" so we can "share" it. Now in "overflow mode" we may certainly jot down some notes and Scriptures if that helps us "proclaim it clearly as we ought" (as Paul said). But, "preparing a message to share" (especially if WE'RE the person "expected" to do so, thus robbing the Priesthood of responsibility and opportunity) is different fundamentally and in motive from "preparing our lives" and "sharing from something REAL that He's doing in us" when prompted by REAL situations that come up right in front of us when we're together in a living room or while gardening or shopping with Saints. Make sense? If you gather together because a particular person has something specific they want to talk about with everyone, that isn't a problem *as long as* it's flexible in topic, and timing, and alteration of path—in response to what Jesus would surprise you with at the Time. :)

There is liberty and obedience to His Ways in 1Cor. 14. But, keep in mind that Paul also addressed in this chapter possible abuses by people ignoring headship, or taking advantage of their "liberty" due to ambition or emotion or lack of wisdom. Again, remember that the entire context for 1Cor. 14 includes "chapters" 10-13, where God's Heart is that His People live as "one Loaf" discerning the Body and DAILY living out their lives intertwined just as the hand is intertwined to the fingers and wrist. In this context of Biblical LIFE in the church, 1Cor.14 can also be obeyed. "When revelation comes to the second, let the first one SIT DOWN." No "show" and no "holy man" running the show. "He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!" Fear, greed, power, and ambition of a few cannot be permitted to rob His People of their Inheritance. Jesus is ALIVE and SPEAKING through His Gifts "as He wills" when we are truly His Body, rather than acting out a ceremony on a holy day.

Yes, there may be "overseers" who serve and help facilitate. And, yes, there will be times for "proclamation" to unBelievers in public as Paul did in certain instances recorded in the book of Acts. Still, unlike today, even in the times of "proclamation" there was "dialogue" (the Greek word of what happened in Troas)— not uninterruptible "monologue." And this "proclamation" type of situation with unBelievers in Ephesus or Athens shouldn't be confused with times when "the whole church is together." (Certainly, though, unBelievers will often be present when the Family of God is together—1Cor. 14.) Times when the local Body of Christ is enjoying one another all in the same place is clearly different than when one is "street preaching" to a collected mass of unBelievers. As one example, Paul used a pagan "school" for the purpose of speaking to unBelievers about Jesus (Acts 19:8-10), spreading God's Word to "everyone in the Province of Asia." This, of course, is different than when the church, the Redeemed and Indwelt, are meeting together as in 1Cor. 12-14 or Acts 20 where Paul "dialogued" (as mentioned the Greek word) with his Family until dawn in an informal environment.

Jesus desires to build His Church that the gates of Hell no longer prevail against! "THIS is HOW all men will know you are MY

Disciples.” He wants US together to “become a habitation” for Him—daily, intertwined “joined and knit together,” and “contending as One Man for the Faith.” And in this *daily* intimacy of “mother, brother, sister” Quality of Life Jesus has authored, THEN all of His People (from the overflow of “daily” totally intertwined lives, Acts 2:42-47, 1Cor. 12-13) MAY be used by the Spirit of Christ, at any given time. It’s simple really. :) JUST as when He was here with us in the physical body, JESUS gets the say. When we are not quenching His Spirit with man-made plans and hierarchies and liturgies and traditions and showmanship, and independent worldly lives, He is free to express Himself and His Gifts, just as when He was here in the physical body. His current Thought and Anointing, whether for a moment or “until dawn”—that is our passion. “When Revelation comes to the second, let the first one sit down...!”

Jesus’ Leadership

In Life

Having said all that, it’s essential to say again that NONE of this really matters much if there is no Quality of daily Life as is described in 1Cor. 12-13 as the prerequisite for “chapter 14.” In fact, without that daily Life this is somewhat “dangerous.” We can’t simply talk about “meetings” without missing something very crucial. The Topic is much larger. This is about the Dynamic of Jesus’ Life in His People! And worldly, disConnected, self-centered living by religious people is why the pre-arranged show by a holy man became an obvious “safeguard” from strange, wild-eyed, sinful men using “freedom” as a platform for their ambitions. Quality of daily life, 1 Cor. 12-13, is a prerequisite and assumption for the Freedom in 1 Cor. 14.

We must combine these previous “pictures” regarding the times when Saints are together en-masse as a Priesthood rather than “audience”, with the Intended (Eph. 3:10) daily Life of Acts 2:42-47, 1Cor. 12, Heb. 3:12-14, and a “HUNDRED mothers, brothers, and sisters.” Jesus said this IS the Plan. **It is Quality of Life He has called His People to live out Together that is at stake here, not “meeting format”!** He desires an Inheritance, not a “meeting” or

“knowledge transference” or “emotional singing.” His Heart is for a Corporate Man, Luke 9:23-27, 57-62—true Christianity, “from the least to the greatest” clothed with HIS Spirit.

It is not about being a little more relaxed and flexible in having our planned or unplanned meetings, and labeling that as “led by the Spirit.” Just because we don’t know in advance what we’re going to do does not mean that things will then be “Spirit-led.” Hardly. It is NOTHING like that. Although “like Jannes and Jambres,” the counterfeits, viewed from earthly perspective, seem similar to Real things.

The difference between simply reforming denominational religion, versus living in the reality of the risen, living Jesus...is staggering. Creatively modifying “meetings” and “structure” (in a religious facility, or in a “house”) isn’t really all that important, compared to the Opportunity He places before us today. He’s not calling us to a “new and improved” structure. He is calling us into daily relationship eating together from the Tree of Life, with the Anointed One! Oh, YES, that *will* change our “meetings”—but that is the Fruit, not the goal. Just switching to new and improved doctrines, techniques, meeting dynamics, how close people live together, the unBiblical “common purse,” or any number of new folkways and mores is meaningless, in reality. What we are really after (if we desire what He Desires!) is a Habitat where JESUS can dwell and “circulate” (Rev. 1-2) unhindered, as Living, Reigning KING. This alone is the ZOE LIFE (as Jesus called it). SUPERNatural, Heavenly Life, of Indestructible and Eternal nature, all-encompassing Reality of an unseen Realm of Power and Truth and Love and Life. Jesus brought this “Life to the full,” “Rivers of Alive Water” Life to His People from another dimension, a Universe that cannot be seen with human eyes and in earthly light frequencies.

Life in Christ Together is not about “how to have meetings.” What Jesus brought to Earth with the Herald of the Angels could never be so shallow and external as all of that. “Meetings”—where more people get to “participate”—is THAT what Jesus died for? NO WAY! Jesus didn’t come to this earth to bring us a new way to have meetings or “have church” or some “movement.” That is so lame

compared to *“His Intentions, now through the Church!”* (Eph. 3:10). He wants to publicly annihilate, decimate, and humiliate the enemy—and transform life after life after life, into the character and Life and Wisdom and Strength of the Son. He is “bringing many sons to Glory”—not simply to Salvation. He is building His CHURCH, which the gates of Hell CANNOT prevail against. By the Grace of Jesus Christ and on His Authority, we’re taking back our sons and our daughters and families and neighbors from the seduction and slavery of satan. Lives are changing. He brought us an entirely new Realm to inhabit by His side—new air to breathe, new eyes to see, new ears to hear, and a new heart to feel and love. This difference affects everything in life, including “meetings”!

Can you see that this takes courage? Can you see that this takes faith and obedience? Can you see that this will change your life if you begin to live in these things? You will no longer be roped to the bed! We are a Kingdom of Priests every day. And, meetings are just extra, really. Ninety percent of our growth comes from living together, and maybe only ten percent comes from meetings. That means you have to get out of your house and into other people’s homes. You bring water, or food, or clothing to their house. When you see they are angry with a child, you may need to pull them aside to talk with them and walk with them. When you see pride in their life, you put your arm around them and ask them not to have pride. When you see selfishness in a brother’s life, you put your arm around him and say, “Please don’t be selfish anymore.” We don’t just close our eyes until the next meeting. We live in the middle of each other’s lives every day as priests doing the work of God, and as “a hundred mothers, brothers, and sisters.” This, too, is an absolute command from God in Hebrews 3, and many, many other scriptures.

Hebrews 3:12-14: “Be careful then, dear friends. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn, encourage, admonish, be alongside each other *every day*, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.”

Notice what this Scripture says—this is from God. Almighty God says to you and me that we must every day warn each other and help each other. We must be alongside each other every day. The Holy Spirit chose to say “every day.” He didn’t say every Sunday. He didn’t say every Sunday and Wednesday. He didn’t even say in meetings. He said get involved on a Truth level in each other’s lives every day. If others are available or could be, and you do not get involved because of lifestyle, or pride, or selfishness, or choice of living situation, God said you will become harder and unable to feel what He feels. You will be deceived into thinking that you know what is right when you do not. That is what Scripture specifically says! He didn’t just say to do it. He said if you *don’t* do this, it will hurt you greatly. If I don’t have brothers talking to me every day about my life—*every day*—I will become hard. I will become deceived. You may say, “But I read my Bible every day!” “But I pray every day!” “My wife is a Christian and I see her every day!” That’s not what God said. You can read your Bible and pray every day, but if you won’t be involved in each other’s lives every day, you will become more and more hard, and more and more deceived. God says this in Hebrews 3:12-14. Do you believe the Bible? Do you believe God?

Who wrote the Bible? God! God said that we have to be involved in each other’s lives every day. If you see me being selfish, you need to come to me and say, “Brother, don’t be selfish. That makes Jesus sad.” If you see me being proud, please help me and remind me that God opposes the proud. I don’t want God to oppose me! You have to help me, because I can’t see it all the time. No one can. “Admonish one another daily so that none of you are hardened and deceived.” This is an important (and almost totally disobeyed worldwide) part of our daily life together. This is one key way you are a priest using your gifts, and “an ambassador of Christ, as if God were making His appeal through you.”

If you put into practice these truths that have always been in your Bibles, you will be amazed at how much closer to Jesus you will be two years from now. “Admonish one another daily.” Be involved with each other’s children and marriages and workplaces “every day.” Go there! You must get out of your “comfort zone” and go

there when you would not have done so before! Yes, I mean YOU! :) Please, for Jesus! Speak the Word “as of God” into each other’s lives, in a practical, loving, wise way, every day. “When you come together, brothers, *everyone* has a word of instruction, a song, a revelation.” “When revelation comes to the second, let the first one sit down.” As you walk this out, you may find that some whom you thought were Christians don’t love Jesus as much as you always thought they did. You also may find some whom you thought to be very weak are becoming stronger and wiser than you could ever imagine. God’s ways expose frauds and counterfeits, and make the weak very strong. Glory to God!

These riches are entrusted to you. Put them into practice for Jesus’ sake. You must define what a Christian really is by what Jesus said. You must understand leadership and what it is really supposed to be. Live your lives every day, together, encouraging each other, building one another up. Help each other to grow and love Jesus more throughout your afternoons and evenings. Come and meet together around King Jesus.

The Bible is 100% true all the way through. It is about Jesus and His followers. These are Stories of how they hurt and how they learned in their experiences with God. We can definitely learn from their stories, but we can also learn the same way they did: by facing God together in our daily lives. In that sense, we too are “living letters.” All the reading in the world could never change us the way the together-experience of Life can change us. Deep things we want to know never get all the way down into our hearts when they’re just read from paper. As we work things out together every day, Jesus teaches us the deep lessons of life that we could never learn from all the Bible study in the world, though these truths are in everyone’s Bible. “The pillar and foundation of Truth is the ekklesia—the church.” “The LIFE becomes the Light of men.”

Life was not meant to be like a grammar school where we learn ideas and then believe a certain list or “creed” of things. Instead, God has called us to become the same men and women of God as those who went before us—connected to the same God that

they were—deeply in love with the same Jesus that they were. In order to do that, we not only need to know what they knew, but we need to feel what they felt. In order to feel what they felt, God has to take us on a Journey similar to theirs. So we take that journey in applying the Word of God together to our lives. We take that journey with tears in our eyes, with our weaknesses and our strengths, loving each other, and helping one another—in the bad times and the good times—with our eyes on our Hope, our Messiah. We are always moving forward, trusting that God will be our provider, helping us as we stay together.

If you love Jesus and build the right way, the gates of hell will no longer prevail. Sin will be crushed. Weakness and sickness will be healed. Sins will be forgiven. Kindness will lead many to repentance. Relationships will be built or restored, beyond what you could imagine in your wonderful dreams. You will shine like stars in the universe, displaying the goodness of God. And the Bride, the Church, will “make herself ready” and be ready when the Groom returns!! Amen?

God’s Intent...NOW!

I was watching a documentary once about Albert Einstein. In the introduction there was a phrase that said something like, “Every once in a long, long, long while a man comes along that perceives the universe through different eyes and changes the universe that he lives in.” We want to put that challenge in front of you. Be the kind of person that Sees the universe, not through the natural eye, but through the Spiritual eye. Be challenged to be one of those people that Hebrews 11 talks about. See God’s vision of a habitation of God by the spirit with ever-increasing glory. See a picture in your mind’s eye, like it says that the believers in the book of Hebrews chapter 11 saw. They saw the City whose Builder and Maker was God, and therefore they weren’t satisfied with anything else. They weren’t willing to return to the old city. They saw the Heavenly Plan afar off, and even if they couldn’t apprehend it with their own hands, even if they couldn’t yet live in that City that God had destined for

them, they were not willing to go back. “Therefore, God was not ashamed to be called their God and them His people.”

That same challenge is before you, and me. Look around at the world that you’re in, the universe you’re in, and especially the “church” that you’re in and have zeal for the Father’s House consume you. Let His Zeal consume you in such a way that you would be willing to risk everything in your life in order to see that fulfilled in your environment. You’d risk your life. You’d risk your family (Psalm 69:8-9). You’d risk your job. You’d risk *anything* for the sake of God and His purposes. That has to be where we’re coming from. Biblically speaking that’s really the only kind of Christianity there is. That’s not a popular thought or idea, but in Romans 4 it says, “*Those with the faith of Abraham are sons of Abraham.*”

So, whatever situation or church that you’re in, and wherever you may be (whatever country or habitation you may have and call home right now), you need to be very, very careful that you don’t accept something that God doesn’t accept. Don’t accept it out of laziness, ignorance of the Word of God, or out of lack of vision or sin in your own personal life that has so blinded you or maimed you that you feel inadequate. Don’t allow others who are content in Laodicea to blackmail or mock you into lukewarmness.

Maybe you’ve been sold the fact that you’re just “laity” and you have nothing to offer. Maybe you think your opinion doesn’t really matter because there are so many wise and learned men out there so...“What could you know?” I just want to encourage you that whoever you are, you have something to offer. If you’ve really called on the name of the Lord and have asked Him to take control of your life, you have something to offer. If you have asked Him to wash away your sins, you have something to offer. His desire is from the least to the greatest that every man would know Him, live in His counsel and fellowship with Him, the Godhead, on a daily basis.

Every once in a great, great long while, a man comes along or a people come along who are willing to question the universe that they live in and make a difference in the world around them. That’s

what Hebrews 11 is about. That’s what God has called each of us to be if we have the courage and the willingness and we’re in communion with the head. Abiding in Him, there will be much fruit to show for it. You can be a person who makes a difference in the world that you’re in.

I hope we have cleared up at least one misunderstanding that has permeated Christian society. That is that becoming a Christian is the end of the story. And then “attending the church of your choice on Sunday” is maintenance until Jesus comes back and you go to a mansion just over the hilltop. I want to just totally eradicate that thought because that is *not* God’s thought. God calls that concept false religion and Laodicea, which upsets His stomach.

“God’s intent is that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...” Ephesians 3:10

This is God’s intent RIGHT NOW. His will is to make known His manifold wisdom ***through the Church***. Not just through individuals that are saved, and not through some impotent society of people who listen to speeches on a particular day of the week in suit and ties...but through the fabric of life, through a community of believers who are “joined and knit together by every supporting ligament,” by people whose gifts are so intertwined they’re “members of one another.” Compacted, “one heart, one mind, of one accord, and one purpose.” Fight for that vision in Acts of believers not possessive of possessions, joined together—“devoted to the apostles teaching, breaking of bread, fellowship, prayer,” and “daily in public and from house to house.” Envision God’s People as an organism—unified, having a fabric of life together that the gates of hell could not prevail against. “Attendance-based” religion is okay for the Hindus and Muslims, but it is not what Jesus began and ordained.

His intent is “now, through the Ekklesia,” through an Organism that’s real and not just a bunch of people that attend something, but lives that are intertwined—“confessing sins one to another,”

“bearing burdens one to another” and “loving one another.” That is the kind of life that men can see. That is the kind of life that Jesus talked about when He said it is “by our love for one another” that “all men will know” this is from heaven (John 13). He said that would “humiliate the principalities and powers.” God’s intent is now “*through the Church*” to bring public humiliation to satan and all the principalities and powers. And His intent, according to the scriptures, is “NOW” through the church to make His enemies His footstools—not just at His second coming and the Eternal ultimate Kingdom, the finished work of God, but NOW.

And, of course, we are not speaking of utopia. We’re not talking about social activism, not a post-millennial sort of thing, not dominion theology. Not flexing muscles, but a cross... We are talking about People expressing a Life together the same way Jesus expressed His life, as the King of all the kings. He was born an illegitimate child in a manger, riding on a borrowed donkey, and having really no possessions of His own—no power, no education, no political soap box, no “beauty or majesty that anyone would be drawn to Him.” We are talking about being a grass roots lover of men that can see into men’s hearts and bring them to the cross. We’re talking about showing men the scandal of His existence and His life, and calling them to become fishers of men. To become part of His House, His “habitation.” To become living stones. “Once not a people, to become a people.” That’s God’s heart.

Receive Jesus of Nazareth, with a Kingdom “not of this world,” not as a conqueror of Rome or of whatever country we live in, or the “church” system. Receive Him simply as the Carpenter King who loved, and forgave, and laid down His life... and who was willing to turn over the temple tables and make a whip if necessary for the love of His Father and for His Father’s House.

Jesus was willing to question the universe that He lived in and thereby Change it, and He has called us to be that same kind of person. This isn’t information transmission. This is a call to holiness and consecration to God’s purposes, and a call to lift up His vision in your hearts and in your lives. Get on your knees and pray. This

is a call not only to change the seen world universe, but also to change the unseen world universe. “His intent is **now** through the Church to make known His wisdom, the manifold wisdom of God, to the principalities and the powers” and to all of the people...

So, let the burning coal cleanse your lips and heart, look to God, and cry out “Here am I, send me!”