

BSC Camp 2023

Different but Same Same

Phil 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

Message 1:
Being A Community Of God's People

Ephesians 2:19-22
(c.f. 1 Peter 2:4-10)



Looking at... The Ephesian Church

Background



Luke records
the start of
the Ephesian
Church

AD 55

Acts

Paul
writes
to the
Ephesian
Church

AD 60

Ephesians

Paul writes
to Timothy
who ministered
at the Ephesian
Church

AD 65

1&2 Timothy

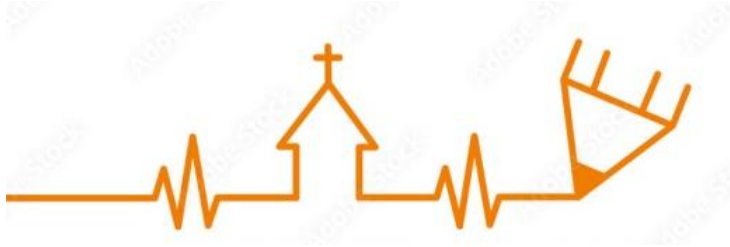
John writes
about what
Jesus had to
say about the
Ephesian Church

AD 95

Revelations

Looking at...
The Ephesian Church

(that gets **many things right**)



Rev 2

- 1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write...
- 2 I know your **works**, your **toil** and your patient **endurance**, and how you **cannot bear with** those who are **evil**, but have **tested** those who call themselves apostles and are not, **and found them** to be **false**.
- 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have **not grown weary**.

Context of Ephesians

God's people are to live anew and as one in Christ

1-2 Believers are exalted with Christ and reconciled to God as one community



**Ephesians
2:19-22**

3 Believers, as Jesus' community, are uniquely willed by God

4a-5a Believers are to pursue unity and holy living in Christ

5b-6a Believers are to fulfil our responsibilities in various settings

6b Believers are to stand as one against the evil one

Message 1 Outline:

- a. **We Are God's Community**
- b. **Jesus Is Our Cornerstone**
- c. **We Are Being Constructed**

Eph 2

- 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
- 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
- 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
- 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

a. We Are God's Community

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a. We Are God's Community

We are **reconciled**
in Christ, people of
God and His promises



(As God's community)

c.f. Eph 2:12

remember that you were **at that time**
separated from Christ,
alienated from the commonwealth
of Israel
and **strangers** to the covenants
of promise,
having no hope and without God
in the world.

a. We Are God's Community

We are **reconciled**
in Christ, people of
God and His promises

We are part of His
kingdom, His **family**
and His **temple**



Eph 2

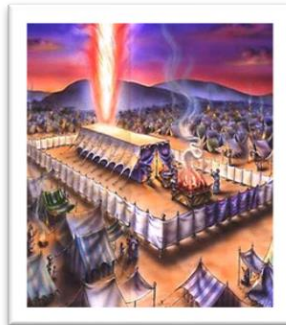
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and aliens, but you are **fellow**
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members of the **household of God**,
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a. We Are God's Community

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We are part of His
kingdom, His **family**
and His **temple**

God dwells
in and among
us



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b. Jesus Is Our Cornerstone

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- 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

b. Jesus Is Our Cornerstone

Jesus is the **foundation**
and **reference** of our life



c.f. 1 Pet 2

- 4 As you come to him, **a living stone** rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
- 5 **you** yourselves like living stones are **being built up as a spiritual house**, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 6 For it stands in Scripture:
"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a **cornerstone** chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."



(As God's community)

b. Jesus Is Our Cornerstone

Jesus is the **foundation** and **reference** of our life

He is **not** just a **commemorative** stone



c.f. 1 Pet 2

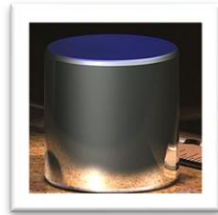
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He is **not** just a **commemorative** stone

God's word is our **divine** and **defining** **authority**



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- 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
- 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

c. We Are Being Constructed —

The Lord, Himself...

...joins us together

...grows us together

...builds us up together

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Message 1 Outline:

a. We Are God's Community

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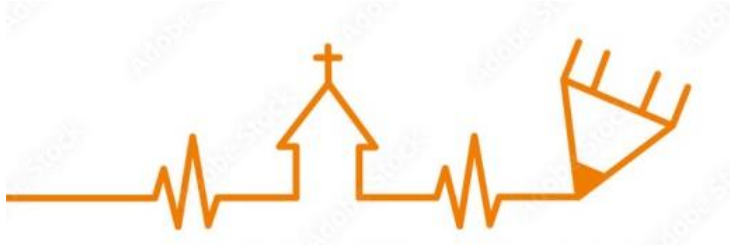
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Looking at...
The Ephesian Church

(that gets **many things right**)



(As God's community)

Rev 2

- 1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write...
- 2 I know your **works**, your **toil** and your patient **endurance**, and how you **cannot bear with** those who are **evil**, but have **tested** those who call themselves apostles and are not, **and found them** to be **false**.
- 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have **not grown weary**.

Looking at...
The Ephesian Church

(that gets **many things right**)

...but sadly after 40 years,
can get the **main thing wrong**



A Warning:

We can **lose our first love**
if we do not **guard our hearts**

Rev 2

- 4 But I have this against you,
that you have **abandoned the love you had at first.**
- 5 Remember therefore from where
you have fallen;
repent, and do the works you did at first.
If not,
I will come to you and remove your lamp-
stand from its place, unless you repent.

BSC Camp 2023

Different but Same Same

Phil 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."



Message 2:

Living as one living sacrifice to our God

Romans 12:1-13

(c.f Philippians 2:2)

1a. We Are God's
Community

We are
His temple



We are
His family



We are
His kingdom



**2. We live as one
living sacrifice
to our God**

*The Roman Church
Rom 12:1-13
(c.f Phil 2:2)*

**3. We walk
together worthy
of our Father**

*The Thessalonian Church
1 Thess 2:1-12
(c.f. Acts 2:42-47)*

**4. We lead
and are led to
serve our King**

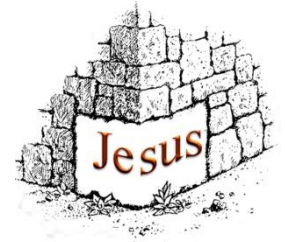
*The Persecuted Church
1 Pet 5:1-7
(c.f. Heb 13, Rom 13)*

b. Jesus Is Our
Cornerstone

We are centred on Christ

5. We testify boldly about our Lord Jesus

*The Jerusalem Church
Acts 4:1-22 (c.f. 1 Pet 3:13-17)*



c. We Are Being
Constructed

Importance of Oneness and Togetherness (Phil 2:2)

Looking at...
The Roman Church

Background

————— **Prevailing tension** (especially over —————
circumcision, Sabbath observance, food laws)

Jewish Christians

⋮
Gentile Christians

What is at stake is the **gospel of Jesus Christ**



Righteousness of God comes **only by faith in Jesus Christ** and to **all (without discrimination) who believe** in Him



Righteousness of God through Christ must, in turn, **shape the way we live** as **individuals** and as a **community**



Looking at...
The Roman Church

(that is affected by
religious **differences**)



Rom 3

29 Or is God the **God of Jews** only?

Is he not the **God of Gentiles** also?

Yes, of Gentiles also,

30 since God is one.

He will **justify** the **circumcised** by **faith**
and the **uncircumcised** through **faith**.

Context of Romans

The Gospel displays the power and righteousness of God

1-4 The Gospel reveals the Righteousness of God by faith

5-8 The Gospel saves all who believe in Christ

9-11 The Gospel comes to the Jews first and also to the Gentiles

12-15 The Gospel changes the way believers live and relate



Romans
12:1-13

15-16 Conclusion

Message 2 Outline:

- a. **We Are One Living Sacrifice**
- b. **We Are At His Service**
- c. **We Are To Live Sanctified Lives**

(As His temple and priests)

Rom 12

- 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.
- 2 Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed
by the renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern
what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable
and perfect.

(As His temple and priests)

a. We Are One Living Sacrifice — Rom 12

Our **devotion** to God as **one community** is the essence of our **worship**



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a. We Are One Living Sacrifice

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God's mercies should be what motivate us



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(As His temple and priests)

a. We Are One Living Sacrifice

Our **devotion** to God as **one community** is the essence of our **worship**

God's mercies should be what motivate us

We are **not** to be **like others** or **like before**; our **minds** need to be **renewed**



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b. We Are At His Service

As individuals, we mustn't
over-estimate ourselves



Rom 12

(As His temple and priests)

- 3 For by the grace given to me
I say to everyone among you
not to think of himself more highly
than he ought to think,
but to **think with sober judgment**,
each according to the measure of
faith that God has assigned.
- 4 For as in one body we have many
members, and the members do not
all have the same function,
- 5 so we, though many, are one body
in Christ, and individually members
one of another.

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As a community, we are
many and diverse yet one



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As individuals, we mustn't
over-estimate ourselves

As a community, we are
many and diverse yet one

We serve '**accordingly**';



Rom 12

(As His temple and priests)

- 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:
- if prophecy, in proportion to our **faith**;
 - 7 if service, in our **servicing**;
 - the one who teaches, in his **teaching**;
 - 8 the one who exhorts, in his **exhortation**;
 - the one who contributes, in generosity;
 - the one who leads, with zeal;
 - the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

b. We Are At His Service

As individuals, we mustn't
over-estimate ourselves

As a community, we are
many and diverse yet one

We serve '**accordingly**';
we also serve
generously,
excellently
and **cheerfully**



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the one who leads, with **zeal**;
the one who does acts of mercy,
with **cheerfulness**.

c. We Are To Live Sanctified Lives

Exercising genuine **love**
and embracing **goodness**



Rom 12

(As His temple and priests)

- 9 Let **love be genuine**.
Abhor what is evil;
hold fast to what is **good**.
- 10 Love one another
with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.
- 11 Do not be slothful in zeal,
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- 12 Rejoice in hope,
be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer.
- 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints
and seek to show hospitality.

c. We Are To Live Sanctified Lives

Exercising genuine **love**
and embracing **goodness**

Exhibiting a spirit of
empathy and **fervency**



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(As His temple and priests)

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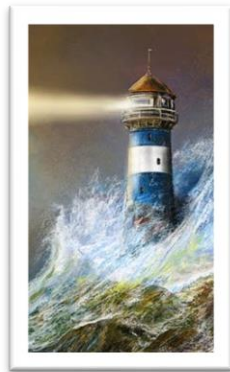
(As His temple and priests)

c. We Are To Live Sanctified Lives **Rom 12**

Exercising genuine **love**
and embracing **goodness**

Exhibiting a spirit of
empathy and **fervency**

Exemplifying **joy**,
hope, **patience**,
prayerfulness and
helpfulness even
in **tribulation**



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and seek to show **hospitality**.

Message 2 Outline:

- a. **We Are One Living Sacrifice**
- b. **We Are At His Service**
- c. **We Are To Live Sanctified Lives**

(As His temple and priests)

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(As His temple and priests)

c.f. Phil 2:2

then make my joy complete

by being **like-minded**,

having the **same love**,

being **one in spirit** and **of one mind**.



An Implication:

We must seek to keep the **oneness**
and **togetherness**

BSC Camp 2023

Different but Same Same

Phil 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."



Message 3:

Walking together worthy of our Father

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

(c.f. Acts 2:42-47)

1a. We Are God's
Community

We are
His temple



We are
His family



We are
His kingdom



**2. We live as one
living sacrifice
to our God**

*The Roman Church
Rom 12:1-13
(c.f Phil 2:2)*

**3. We walk
together worthy
of our Father**

*The Thessalonian Church
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**4. We lead
and are led to
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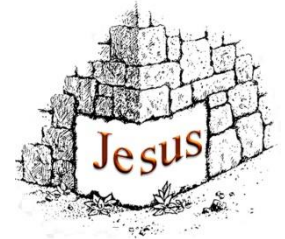
*The Persecuted Church
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b. Jesus Is Our
Cornerstone

We are centred on Christ

5. We testify boldly about our Lord Jesus

*The Jerusalem Church
Acts 4:1-22 (c.f. 1 Pet 3:13-17)*



c. We Are Being
Constructed

Importance of Oneness and Togetherness (Phil 2:2)

Looking at...

The Thessalonian Church

Background



(c.f. Acts 17:1-10)

▶ At Thessalonica, Paul ministered the **gospel** for about **three weeks**

Because of **persecutions**, Paul has to flee and leave behind **young believers**

▶ **Being worried** about their well-being, **Paul sends Timothy** to see how they are continuing in their faith despite persecutions

Timothy returns to Paul with a **glowing report** of the Thessalonian believers' faith and testimony

Looking at...
The Thessalonian Church

(that is **young** but
growing steadily)



1 Thess 3

- 5 For this reason,
when I could bear it no longer,
I sent to learn about your faith,
for fear that somehow the tempter had
tempted you and our labor would be in vain
- 6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you,
and has **brought us the good news of
your faith and love**
and reported that you always remember us
kindly and long to see us, as we long to
see you

Context of 1 Thessalonians

God's people are to continue in the good work that God has started in their lives

- 1 Believers display remarkable faith, love and hope
- 2 Believers truly share and receive God's word
- 3 Believers persevere through very trying times
- 4 Believers are to put righteousness, love and knowledge in action
- 5 Believers are to live in hope and sobriety in view of His return



**1 Thess
2:1-12**

Message 3 Outline:

- a. **Being True To God**
- b. **Being Real To One Another**
- c. **Walking Together Worthy Of God**

(As children in His family)

1 Thess 2

- 1 For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain.
- 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.
- 3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,

a. Being True To God

Our faith and ministry is marked by **boldness** and **perseverance**



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a. Being True To God

Our faith and ministry is marked by **boldness** and **perseverance**

Our conduct is marked by **simplicity** and **sincerity**



(As children in His family)

1 Thess 2

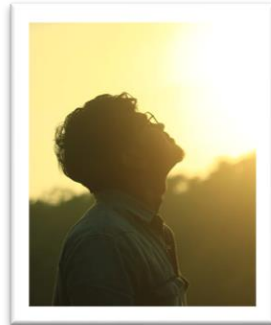
- 4 but just as we have been **approved** by God to be **entrusted** with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.
- 5 For we **never** came with words of **flattery**, as you know, nor with a pretext for **greed** - God is witness.
- 6 Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.

a. Being True To God

Our faith and ministry is marked by **boldness** and **perseverance**

Our conduct is marked by **simplicity** and **sincerity**

Our motivation is marked by our desire for **God's glory**



(As children in His family)

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(As children in His family)

b. Being Real To One Another — 1 Thess 2

Our **sharing** involves **truths** and our **lives**



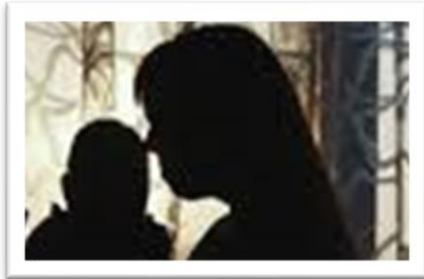
- 7 But we were gentle among you,
like a nursing mother taking care of
her own children.
- 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you,
we were ready to **share** with you not
only the gospel of God
but also our own selves,
because you had become very dear to us.
- 9 For you remember, brothers, our labor
and toil: we worked night and day,
that we might not be a burden
to any of you, while we proclaimed
to you the gospel of God.

(As children in His family)

b. **Being Real To One Another** — **1 Thess 2**

Our **sharing** involves
truths and our **lives**

Our **concerns** must
be **genuine** and our
approach, gentle



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b. Being Real To One Another — 1 Thess 2

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Our **concerns** must be **genuine** and our **approach, gentle**

Our **goal** for one another is to **walk worthy of God**



10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

11 For you know how, **like a father** with his children,

12 we **exhorted** each one of you and **encouraged** you and **charged** you

to **walk** in a manner **worthy of God**, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

c. Walking Together Worthy Of God

Together, we devote ourselves to the **teaching of God's word, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers**



(As children in His family)

c.f. Acts 2

- 42 And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**.
- 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
- 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.
- 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need

(As children in His family)

c. **Walking Together Worthy Of God**

Together, we devote ourselves to the **teaching of God's word, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers**

Together, we display **gladness, gratefulness and generosity**

c.f. **Acts 2**

46 And day by day,
attending the temple together and
breaking bread in their homes,
they received their food **with glad**

47 **and generous hearts,**
praising God and having favor
with all the people.

And the Lord added to their number
day by day those who were being saved



Message 3 Outline:

- a. **Being True To God**
- b. **Being Real To One Another**
- c. **Walking Together Worthy Of God**

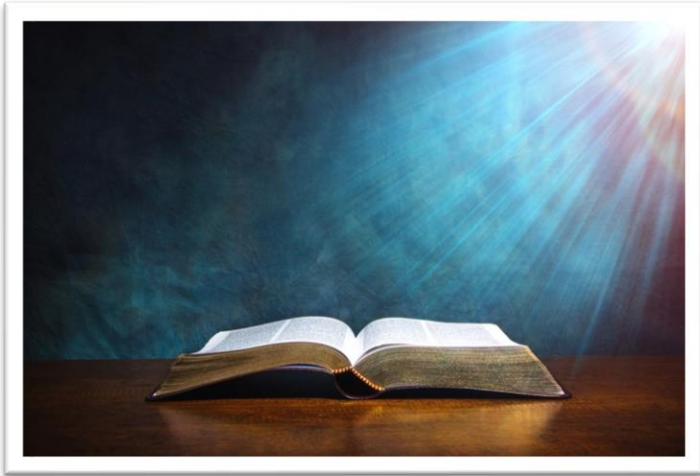
c.f. Acts 2

- 46 And day by day,
attending the temple together and
breaking bread in their homes,
they received their food with glad
and generous hearts,
- 47 praising God and having favor
with all the people.
- And the Lord added to their number
day by day those who were being
saved.

(As children in His family)

c.f. 1 Thess 1

- 4 For we know, brothers loved by God,
that he has chosen you,
5 because our **gospel** came to you
not only in **word**,
but also in **power**
and in the **Holy Spirit**
and with **full conviction**.



The Premise:

The **Spirit of God** must work in tandem with **His word** in our lives

BSC Camp 2023

Different but Same Same

Phil 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."



Message 4:

Leading and being led to serve our King

1 Peter 5:1-7

(c.f. Hebrews 13:7-8, 17; Rom 13:1-5)

1a. We Are God's
Community

We are
His temple



We are
His family



We are
His kingdom



**2. We live as one
living sacrifice
to our God**

*The Roman Church
Rom 12:1-13
(c.f Phil 2:2)*

**3. We walk
together worthy
of our Father**

*The Thessalonian Church
1 Thess 2:1-12
(c.f. Acts 2:42-47)*

**4. We lead
and are led to
serve our King**

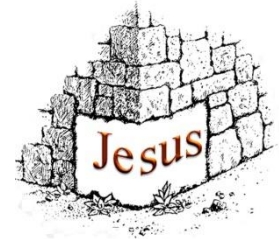
*The Persecuted Church
1 Pet 5:1-7
(c.f. Heb 13, Rom 13)*

b. Jesus Is Our
Cornerstone

We are centred on Christ

5. We testify boldly about our Lord Jesus

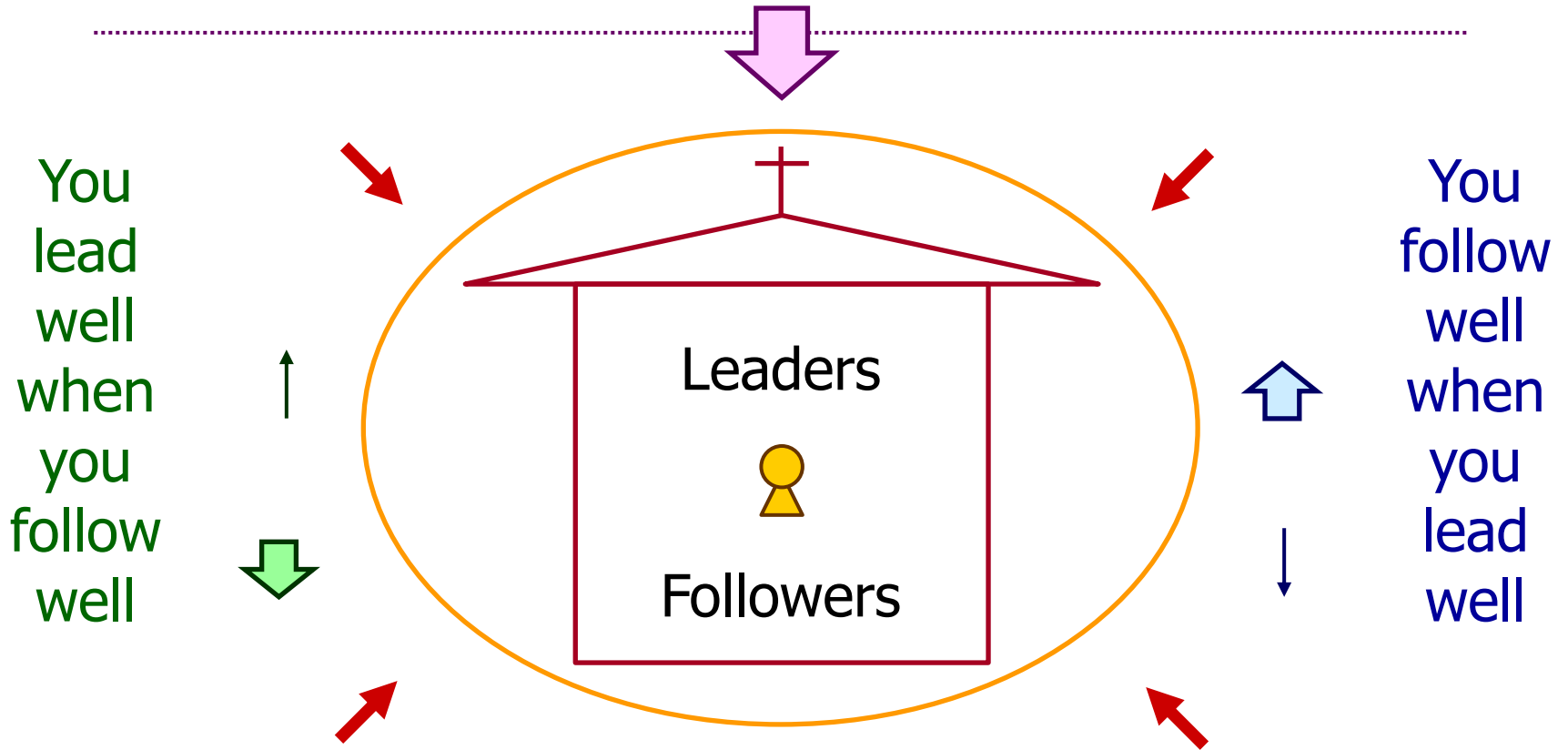
*The Jerusalem Church
Acts 4:1-22 (c.f. 1 Pet 3:13-17)*



c. We Are Being
Constructed

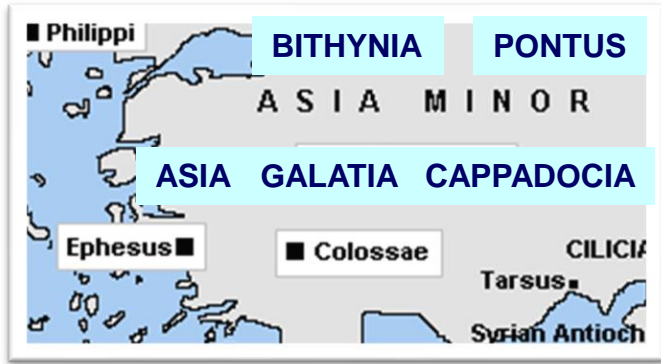
Importance of Oneness and Togetherness (Phil 2:2)

GOD As Our King



Looking at... The Persecuted Churches

Background



Paul writes to urge them to live **holy** lives and respond **Christianly** in the context of **hostility** and **suffering**

Peter writes to believers in the five provinces in the northwest of Asia Minor, namely, Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia

These believers were being persecuted and treated like “strangers, foreigners, exiles” because of their faith in Christ



The believers are to remember how **privileged** they are in Christ and to **pattern** their lives **after Jesus** who suffered and died for us



Looking at...

The Persecuted Churches

(that are **suffering hardships** due to their **faith**)



1 Pet 4

- 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.
- 13 But **rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings,** that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
- 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Context of 1 Peter

God's people are to endure sufferings by understanding our privilege and role in Christ

1-2a Our position as the privileged people of God

2b-3a Our role as pilgrims and strangers in the world

3b-5 Our response as suffering servants of Christ



1 Peter
5:1-7

Message 4 Outline:

a. **Lead By
Shepherding**

b. **Follow By
Submitting**

c. **God Is
Sovereign**

(As His kingdom subjects)

1 Pet 5

- 1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:
- 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but
- 3 eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the
- 4 flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

(As His kingdom subjects)

a. Lead By Shepherding

Shepherd God's people

...as **sufferers** of Christ and
partakers of His glory

1 Pet 5

- 1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder & a **witness** of the **sufferings of Christ**, as well as a **partaker** in the **glory** that is going to be revealed:
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(As His kingdom subjects)

a. Lead By Shepherding

Shepherd God's people

...as **sufferers** of Christ and
partakers of His glory

...as **shepherds tasked**
by the chief Shepherd



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(As His kingdom subjects)

a. Lead By Shepherding

Shepherd God's people

...as **sufferers** of Christ and
partakers of His glory

...as **shepherds tasked**
by the chief Shepherd

being **careful,**
willing, giving
and exemplary



1 Pet 5

- 2 **shepherd the flock** of God that is among you, exercising **oversight**, not under compulsion, but **willingly**, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but **eagerly**;
- 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being **examples** to the flock.

b. Follow By Submitting

Subjection and submission involves...

...being **humble** and **depending** on God



(As His kingdom subjects)

1 Pet 5

5 Likewise, you who are younger,

be subject to the elders.

Clothe yourselves, all of you,

with humility toward one another,

for "God opposes the proud

but gives grace to the humble."

6 **Humble yourselves**, therefore,

under the mighty hand of God

so that at the proper time

he may exalt you,

7 **casting all your anxieties on him**,

because he cares for you.

b. Follow By Submitting

Subjection and submission involves...

...being **humble** and **depending** on God

...**remembering** our leaders



(As His kingdom subjects)

c.f. Heb 13

7 **Remember your leaders,**

those who spoke to you the word of God.

Consider the outcome of their way of life, and **imitate their faith**.

17 **Obey** your leaders and **submit** to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

b. Follow By Submitting

Subjection and submission involves...

...being **humble** and **depending** on God

...**remembering** our leaders

...**discerning** right from wrong



(As His kingdom subjects)

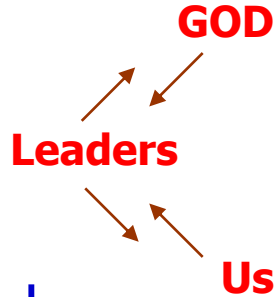
c.f. Matt 23

- 1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,
- 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,
- 3 so **practice and observe whatever they tell you - but not what they do.**
For **they preach, but do not practice.**

c. God Is Sovereign

Our shepherding
and subjection...

...must be shaped by
our **recognition** that all
governors & governance
are **instituted by** and
are **accountable to God**



c.f. 1 Pet 2

(As His kingdom subjects)

13 **Be subject for the Lord's sake
to every human institution,**

14 whether it be to the emperor as
supreme, or to governors as sent by
him to punish those who do evil and
to praise those who do good.

18 Servants, be subject to your masters
with all respect, not only to the good
and gentle but also to the unjust.

3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your
own husbands...

c. God Is Sovereign

Our shepherding
and subjection...

...must be shaped by
our **recognition** that all
governors & governance
are **instituted by** and
are **accountable to God**

...shows our **true response**
to God who rules as our King



c.f. Rom 13

(As His kingdom subjects)

- 1 Let every person **be subject** to the **governing authorities**.
For there is no **authority** except **from God**, and those that exist have been **instituted by God**.
- 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the **sake of conscience**.

Message 4 Outline:

a. **Lead By
Shepherding**

b. **Follow By
Submitting**

c. **God Is
Sovereign**

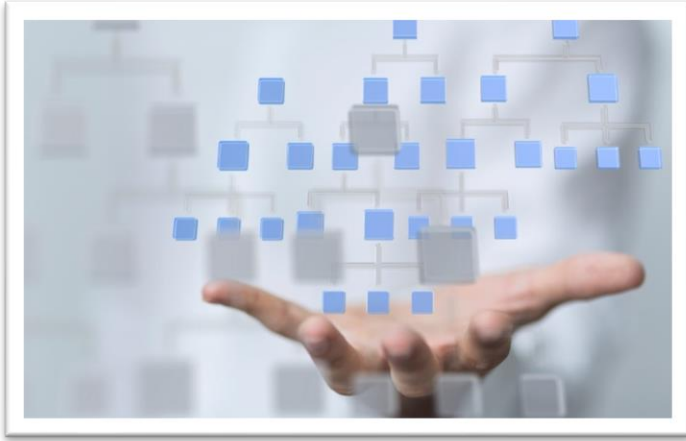
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- 1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God,
and those that exist have been instituted by God.
- 5 Therefore one must be in subjection,
not only to avoid God's wrath
but also for the sake of conscience.

(As His kingdom subjects)

c.f. Heb 13



A Thought:

Leadership and subordination
are **God-given roles** and
responsibilities

- 20 Now may the God of peace
who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus,
the **great shepherd** of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
- 21 **equip you with everything good**
that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing
in his sight, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever.
Amen.

BSC Camp 2023

Different but Same Same

Phil 2:2 "then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

Message 5:

Testifying boldly about our Lord Jesus

Acts 4:1-22

(c.f. 1 Peter 3:13-17)



1a. We Are God's
Community

We are
His temple



We are
His family



We are
His kingdom



**2. We live as one
living sacrifice
to our God**

The Roman Church
Rom 12:1-13
(c.f Phil 2:2)

**3. We walk
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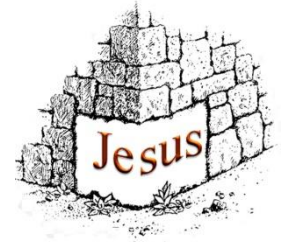
The Persecuted Church
1 Pet 5:1-7
(c.f. Heb 13, Rom 13)

We are centred on Christ

b. Jesus Is Our
Cornerstone

5. We testify boldly about our Lord Jesus

The Jerusalem Church
Acts 4:1-22 (c.f. 1 Pet 3:13-17)



c. We Are Being
Constructed

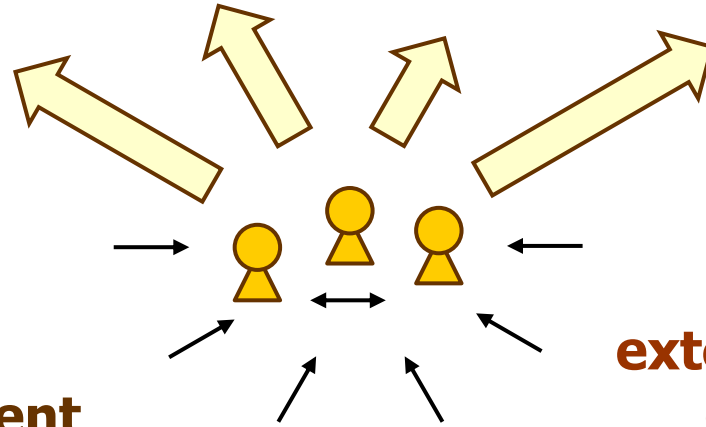
Importance of Oneness and Togetherness (Phil 2:2)

Looking at...
The Jerusalem Church
Background

The witness extends from the **apostles to others**; the gospel went from **Jews to Gentiles**, from **Jerusalem** to Judea and Samaria and subsequently even further **to Europe and Rome**

The church started with a group of believers (led by the apostles) seeking the Lord in word and prayer

With the **Spirit's empowerment**, the apostles **preached the gospel boldly**; the Lord added growth to the church which was marked by its unity and generosity



The church faced many **external threats** (in the form of persecutions) and **internal threats** (in their ethnic diversities)

Looking at...
The Jerusalem Church
(that is **empowered**
by the **Holy Spirit**)



Acts 1:8

But you will receive **power**
when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you,
and you will be my **witnesses**
in **Jerusalem**
and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**,
and to the **end of the earth**.

Context of Acts

God empowers His people to bring His good news to all people

1-6a The Good News begins in Jerusalem



Acts 4:1-22

6b-9 The Good News spreads to Judea and Samaria

10-12 The Good News spreads to the Gentiles

13-28 The Good News spreads to the ends of the earth

Message 5 Outline:

- a. **We Testify About Jesus**
- b. **We Testify With Boldness**
- c. **Having Good Conscience And Behaviour**

Acts 4

- 1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,
- 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

a. We Testify About Jesus

We testify about...

...**Jesus** and His **work**,
not ourselves



Acts 4

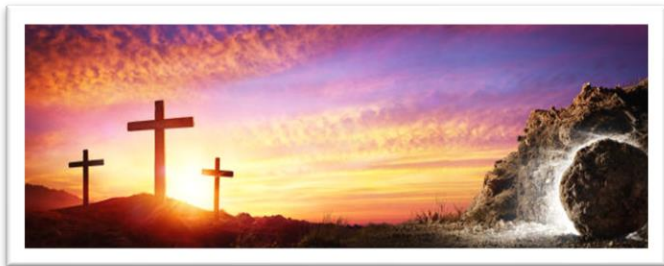
- 1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,
- 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.
- 10 **let it be known** to all of you and to all the people of Israel that **by the name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead - by him **this man is** standing before you **well**

a. We Testify About Jesus

We testify about...

...**Jesus** and His **work**,
not ourselves

...**Jesus' death** and
resurrection



Acts 4

- 1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,
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a. We Testify About Jesus

We testify about...

...**Jesus** and His **work**,
not ourselves

...**Jesus' death** and
resurrection

...how we have **sinned**
and **Jesus alone saves**

Acts 4

- 11 This Jesus is the stone that was
rejected by you, the builders,
which has become the cornerstone.
- 12 And there is **salvation** in **no one else**,
for there is **no other name** under
heaven given among men
by which we must be saved.



b. **We Testify With Boldness**

Our **boldness** is a result of...
...the **work** of the **Spirit**



Acts 4

- 8 Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them,
"Rulers of the people and elders..."
- 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

b. **We Testify With Boldness**

Our **boldness** is a result of...

...the **work** of the **Spirit**

...our **walk** with **Jesus**



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b. We Testify With Boldness

Our **boldness** is a result of...

...the **work** of the **Spirit**

...our **walk** with **Jesus**

...our **belief** in
the **word** and
rule of **God**



(Testifying about Jesus)

Acts 4

19 But Peter and John answered them,
"Whether it is right in the sight
of God to listen to you
rather than to God,
you must judge,
20 for **we cannot but speak** of
what we have seen and heard."

29 And now, **Lord, look upon their
threats** and **grant to your servants
to continue** to speak your word
with **all boldness**

b. **We Testify With Boldness**

Our **boldness** is a result of...

...the **work** of the **Spirit**

...our **walk** with **Jesus**

...our **belief** in the **word**
and **rule** of **God**

Our boldness is **most**
evident in the face of **threats**

Acts 4

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c. Having Good Conscience And Behaviour

We must always be **pre-
pared** to testify about Jesus...

...through **clear expla-
nations** presented with
gentleness and respect



c.f. 1 Pet 3

- 15 but in your hearts
regard Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared
to make a **defense to anyone**
who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you;
- 16 yet do it with **gentleness & respect,**
having a good conscience,
so that, when you are slandered,
those who revile your good
behavior in Christ may be put
to shame.

c. Having Good Conscience And Behaviour

We must always be **pre-
pared** to testify about Jesus...

...through **clear expla-
nations** presented with
gentleness and **respect**

...by being **good examples**
(good **conscience** and
good **behaviour in Christ**)

(Testifying about Jesus)

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Message 5 Outline:

a. **We Testify About Jesus**

b. **We Testify With Boldness**

c. **Having Good Conscience And Behaviour**

(Testifying about Jesus)

c.f. 1 Pet 3

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Acts 4

- 32 Now the full number of those who believed were of **one heart** and **soul**, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had **everything in common**.
- 33 And with great power the apostles were **giving** their **testimony** to the **resurrection of the Lord Jesus**, and great grace was upon them all.



An Observation:

The Spirit's indwelling results in **transformation** and **gospel transmission**

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Community

We are
His temple



We are
His family



We are
His kingdom



**2. We live as one
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to our God**

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Rom 12:1-13
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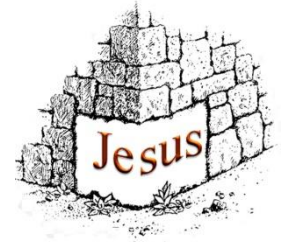
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