

Ekklesia

Building Blocks - Part 3

January 15, 2023

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

This church has transformed my life.

This church has transformed many of your lives.

Church = ekklesia = called out ones, gathering, assembly, congregation

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴"Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." ¹⁵Then He asked them, "But who do you say I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**" ¹⁷Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my [*ekklesia*], and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Matthew 16:13-18 (NLT)

¹⁹So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are **citizens** along with all of God's holy people. You are members of **God's family**. ²⁰Together, we are **His house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming **a holy temple** for the Lord." Ephesians 2:19-21 (NLT)

¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, **which is His body**. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything." Colossians 1:18 (NLT)

*"But you are not like that, for you are a **chosen people**. You are **royal priests**, a **holy nation**, **God's very own possession**. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you **out of the darkness** into His wonderful light."* 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

Purposes of the church:

- **To honor God**
- **To build up believers**
- **To reach those far from God**

Three building blocks to a strong faith:

- **The Word**
- **Prayer**
- **His ekklesia!**

²⁵For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. **He gave up His life for her** ²⁶to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault." Ephesians 5:25-27 (NLT)

You get out of church what you put in.

Would you prioritize being here and being a part?

The ask/challenge:

- **Commit to be here every Sunday for Chazown (Jan-Feb)**
- **Join a small group for 6 weeks**
- **Journal 5 days each week**
- **Come to First Steps**
- **Come to Night of Worship and Prayer this Thursday**

⁴²All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

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