

## **REVIVE CHURCH- THE ASSEMBLY**

### **EPHESIANS SERIES #5**

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Recap- Paul's prayer for the church that the Father of Glory would give His people increased understanding, experiential truth of God that they would experience His glory in the hope of His calling, the glory of being the Father's inheritance and walking in the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead.

Ephesians 1:19-23- 19and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.22And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the **church**, 23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**Jesus since His ascension has taken His rightful place, enthroned at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places. He is seated because His sacrifice was all sufficient.**

Hebrews 10 12But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

**Jesus is seated in heaven; the invisible realm and He has all authority. All principalities and powers with their evil works are beneath His feet.** The New Testament reveals an invisible hierarchy of evil powers who deceive and manipulate using their satanic strategies. Christ and all who are in Christ are placed in authority above these powers. It is only by using spiritual warfare that the believer can assert, demonstrate and sustain this authority.

**Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]

**The crowning achievement of Christ is expressed in: Ephesians 1:22-23-22**And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the **church**, 23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- **Christ is over all and is the head over all things.**
- **The church is the authoritative extension of Christ with full power to act on His behalf in this age!**
- **The rule of Christ, guaranteed by the work of the Father extends to the church.** *The church is the place where Christ freely moves without any opposition (At least that is how it is supposed to be and how it will be).*
- **The demonic powers at work in the world today are opposed to the church and seek to deceive, manipulate and torment believers.**
- **We are purposed to overcome all spiritual resistance meant to come against Jesus Church, we are also meant to be the revelation of Jesus, both seen and experienced on the earth.**

There are seven different pictures of the church in Ephesians. I will take time to focus on each one as we read the specific verse that pertains.

The first picture given in Ephesians is the word we commonly use for church in verse 22 which come from the Greek word *ecclesia*.

- The word *ecclesia* is derived from a verb that means “to call out”. The concept is a group of people that is formed by being called out from a larger group of people. It is also a group called out for a special purpose. We are called out of the world and out of darkness through faith in Jesus Christ for a special purpose of God which scripture reveals.
- In New Testament times the word *ecclesia* had a very specific meaning. It meant a governmental assembly.
- The root meaning of the word we translate as church actually means a legal or governmental assembly. Governmental assembly is the first picture given that God’s people view in the mirror of God’s word. Recall the word transforms us into His image.

The qualifications to be in this assembly is given to us by Jesus Christ in: **Matthew 16:15-18** *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

The revelation did not come by Peter’s natural reasoning or logic. It came from God the Father through the Holy Spirit. So you are not part of the *ecclesia*, the called out the assembly that has Christ is head by going through a membership class, agreeing to denominational creeds or any other avenue outside of this personal confession and corporate agreement.

This revelation given to Peter by God the Father is the foundation that every believer/disciple of Jesus must build upon. There is only One foundation and that is Jesus Christ. *Some have wrongly interpreted this passage to mean that Peter is the rock that the church is built on but that is not the case at all.*

- Jesus said you are Peter and, on this rock, I will build my church. The Greek word for Peter is *petros* and it means a rock or stone.
- The word Jesus used for rock is *Petra* and it means a cliff or part of the bedrock.
- Jesus was contrasting Peter the stone to the bedrock/foundation of Jesus. Peter was a small movable stone in comparison to the immovable bedrock. It was Peter’s confession that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God that would reveal the starting point for every true believer.
- The language of Jesus in this passage is very emphatic. All the emphasis is on the word “My”. My church, My assembly. Jesus was saying there is only one true church (*ecclesia*). He states very clearly *I will build My church*. If Jesus doesn’t build it, He will not own it. He owns only what He build.

#### 4 stages of our confession

1. Everyone has to have this **face-to-face confrontation** with Jesus. No mediator, no other human in between you and Jesus.
2. The **personal revelation** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God is not a man made idea. The Father, by the Spirit, reveals the son. **No one can come to the Son unless the Father draw them (John 6:44),**
3. **Personal Acknowledgement**-You must receive this revelation and acknowledge Jesus. You could get the revelation and not personalize it.
4. **Public Confession**-Do you agree. **Does your heart believe and your mouth make the confession?** You believe in your heart and confess with your mouth (*Rom. 10:9*)

**These stages are personal revelation and personal acceptance. This is how we build on the rock.** This is the unchanging truth of God's word. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He alone is the immovable foundation that man can build his life upon. All other ground is sinking sand.**

**Lets go back to the essential feature of the assembly and that is governmental authority.**

Here is a picture that can help our understanding.

Psalm 110:1-2-**1**The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,  
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."**2**The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

- **Right now, this very moment Jesus has all authority and is seated next to the Father.** *Sometimes we can be so aware of the works of the enemy that we can forget Jesus Christ is already ruling.*
- **His enemies have not all been subdued under His feet yet, but He is ruling supreme in the midst of His enemies right now through us!** **The Holy Spirit extends the scepter of Christ's authority over the nations, kings and rulers of this earth and He does this out of the assembly of God's people who are met in divine order through prayer, worship, agreement with His word and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The governmental assembly (Church) represents the rod in Jesus hand as He rules from Zion.** **We are the rod stretched forth in the Lord's hand representing His authority in whatever sphere of influence in which we operate.** As we set our hearts on this truth and grow in faith with God's purpose for the church we will truly move from glory to glory. **There is power in this truth. We are meant to rule under Christ's authority in the midst of our enemies.**
- **Christians accept the fact that Jesus is going to rule someday. It is vital to understand that He is ruling right now!** Through our prayers, intercessions, agreement with His word, worship and fasting. **Through our proclamation of the Gospel and our whole hearted love and obedience we are being used by Christ to rule in the midst of His enemies.**

Matthew 18:18-20 18“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

**When we agree on earth heaven does the work. When we bind or loose on earth, it is bound or loosed in heaven. Our agreement in the governmental assembly on earth is made effective as we gather together in the unified assembly.**

**Heaven takes notice of our requests and petitions and makes them effective. We have incredible authority as the ruling assembly of God!**

**We make decrees that have their origin in the word of God that are according to the will of God. Matthew 18 says whatever we decree He will enforce and whatever decision we make, He will carry out. God has placed this responsibility on the assembly.**

**The essential feature of the Assembly (ecclesia) is governmental authority.** We will examine the six other essential features as we discover God’s full purpose for His church.

We are each a part of the whole. **Authority is given to the body of Christ. And the ecclesia is a corporate expression not an individual one.**

- **A Kingdom is the government of a king. When His Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven everything is perfectly impacted by His purpose and will. His Kingdom manifests a culture and society that are a direct reflection of the Kings nature, values and morals.**

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV) 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the **government** will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 **Of the increase of [His] government and peace [There will be] no end,** Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

### Home Groups

- Explain your Scriptural understanding of Spiritual warfare. What are our primary weapons?
- The **root meaning of the word we translate as church actually means a legal or governmental assembly.** Governmental assembly is the first picture given of the church in the New Testament. Why did Jesus emphasize this?
- You are not part of the ecclesia, the church in which Christ is the head by going through a membership class or agreeing to a denominational creed. It is only by the personal confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Why is this the rock the church is built upon?

- Discuss-Jesus enemies have not all been subdued under His feet yet, but He is ruling supreme in the midst of His enemies right now through us!
- Discuss this statement and it's ramifications-When we agree on earth heaven does the work. When we bind or loose on earth, it is bound or loosed in heaven. **Our agreement in the governmental assembly on earth is made effective as we gather together in the unified assembly.** Heaven takes notice of our requests and petitions and makes them effective. We have incredible authority as the ruling assembly of God!