

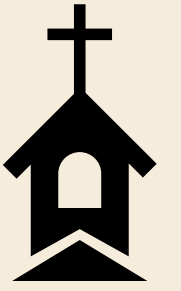


Alignment

Week 10: The Church

X Factor: The True Body of Christ

X Factor



Chief Takeaway:

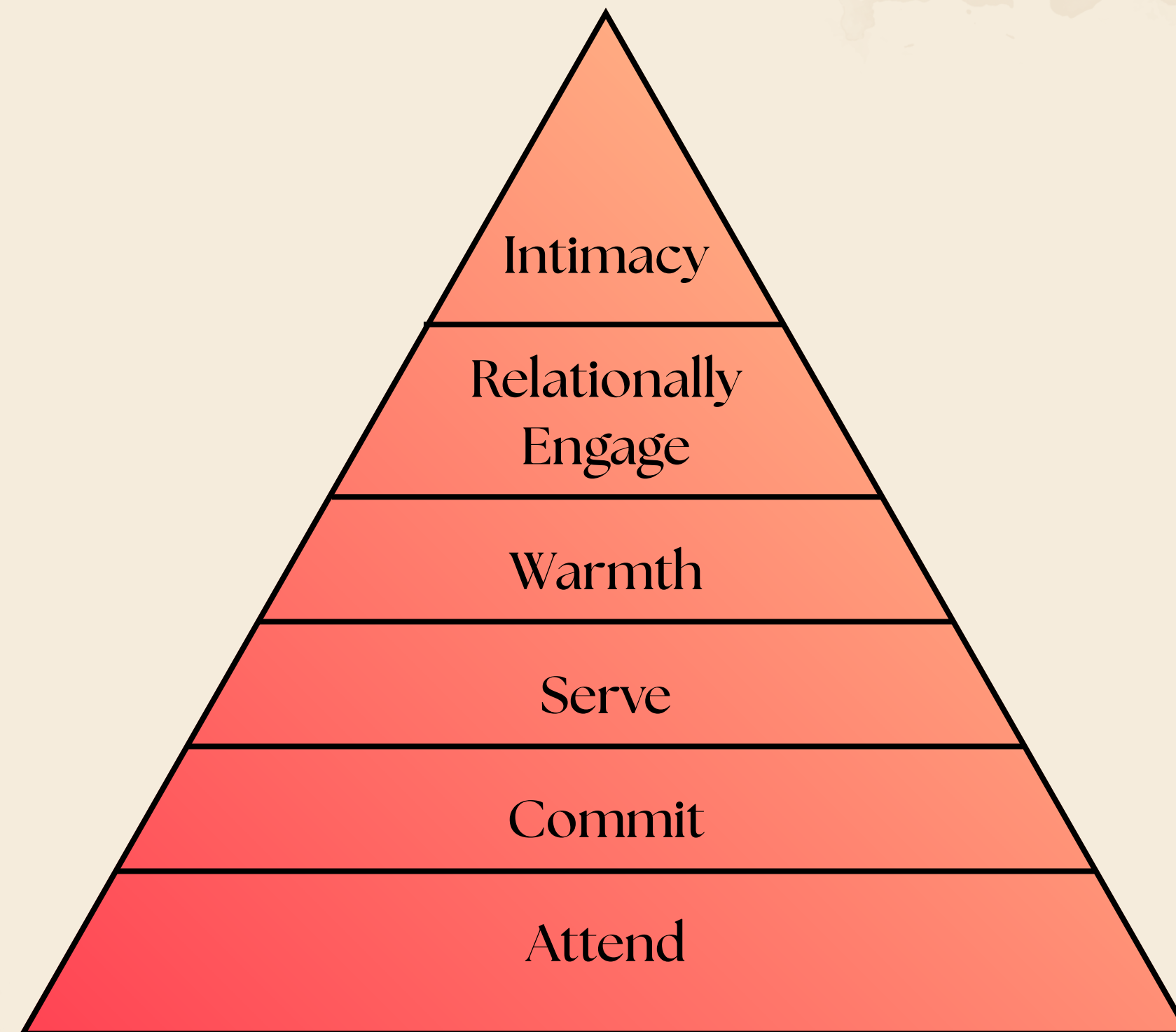
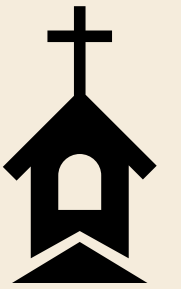


No Body
No Glory

1 Corinthians 12:18-27



Church Engagement



City of Ephesus *In Biblical Times*

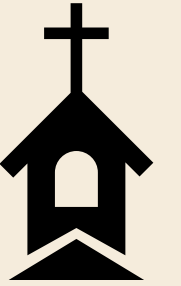
- Capital city of Roman province of Asia Minor
- Located in modern day Turkey
- Major port city for sea and land trade and controlling travel routes
- Commercial hub
- Multi-cultural
- Attracted scholars and philosophers
- City for Christian missions
- Temple of the goddess Artemis/Diana (7 wonders)
- Paul did ministry there for 3 years



Theme: The Body of Christ

Book of Ephesians

Body of Christ



- Scripture -
- 1:22
- 2:19
- 3:14-21
- 4:11-13



“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. **Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.**

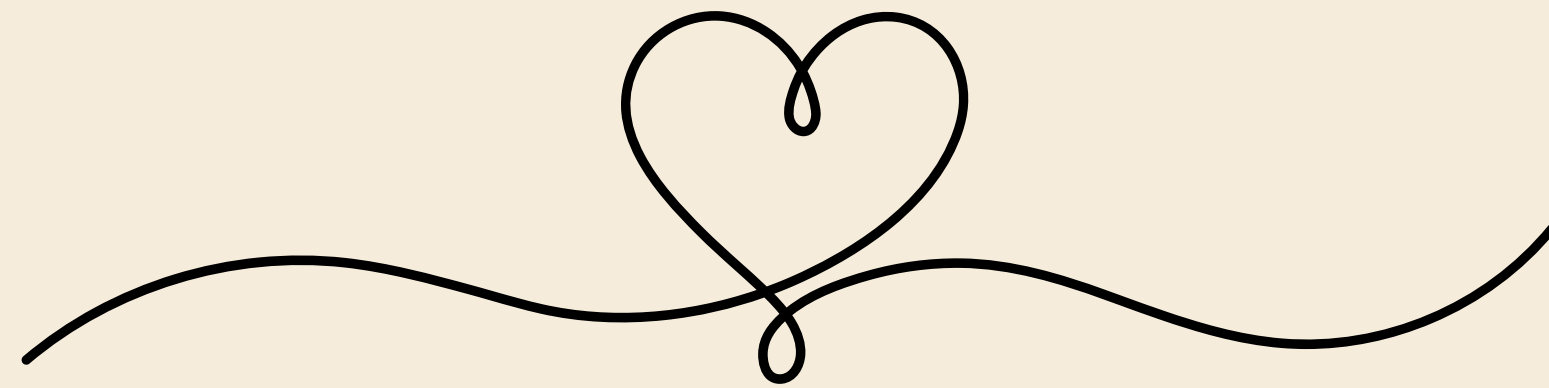
Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:1-7
(1984 NIV)



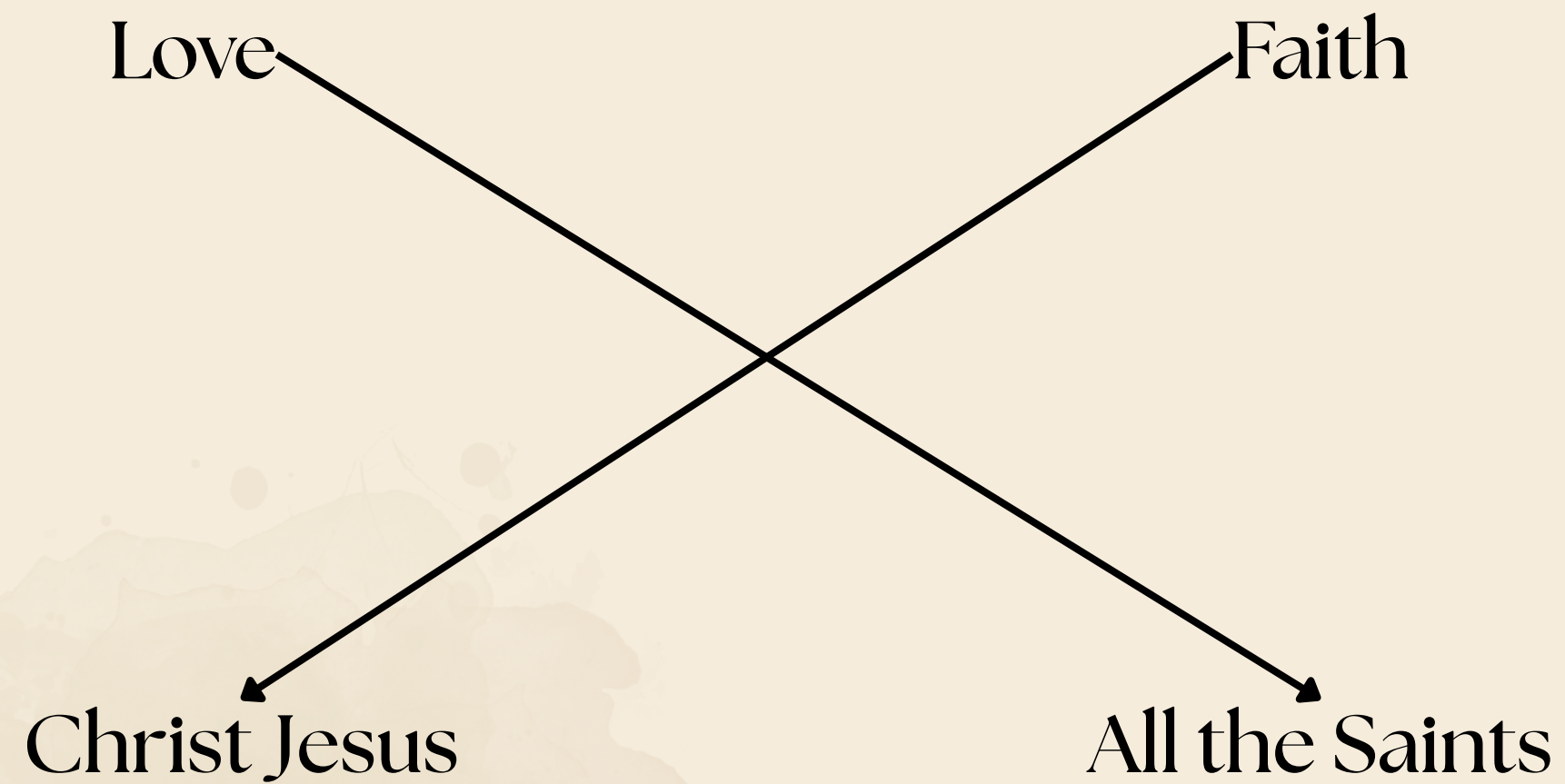
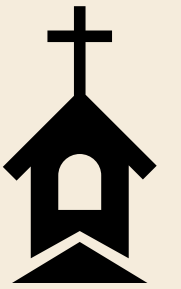


What is our first love?



X Factor

Chiasm



“I always thank my God as I
remember you in my prayers,”
Philemon 1:4

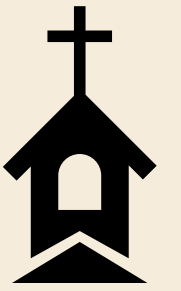
“because we have heard of your
faith in Christ Jesus and of the
love you have for all the saints--”
Colossians 1:4

Neglect

1. Faith in Jesus
2. The People of God
3. Both



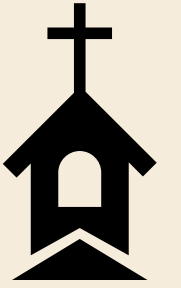
Screwtape (Uncle Demon) writing to his nephew Wormwood:



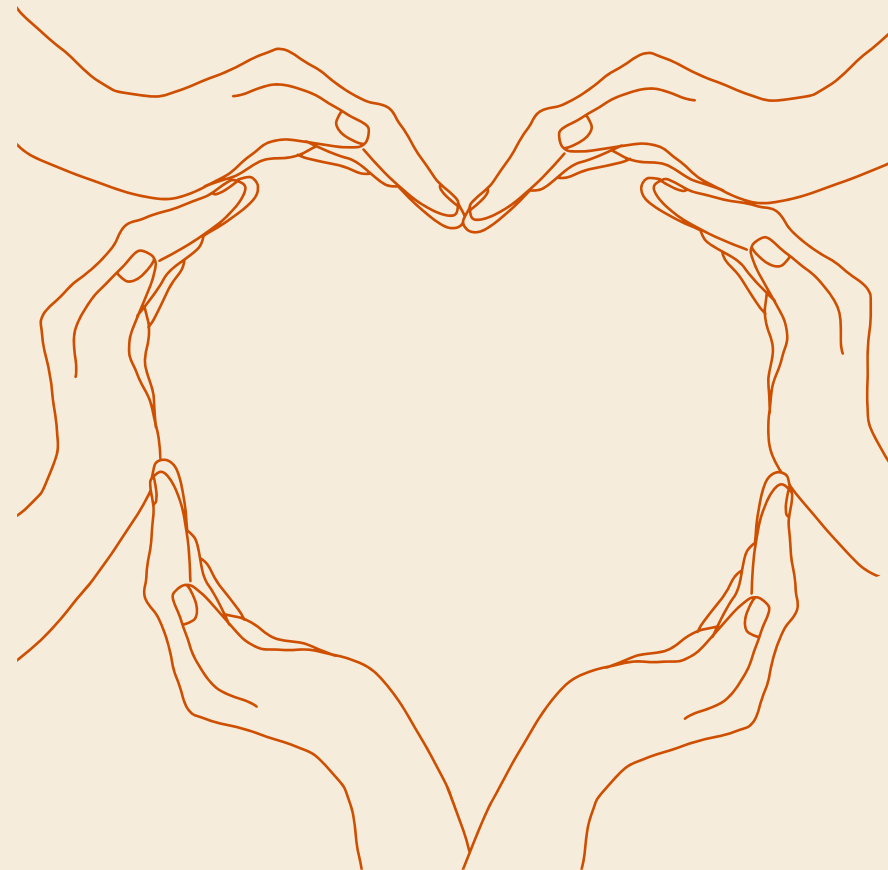
“One of our great allies at present is the Church itself. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean the Church as we see her spread out through all time and space and rooted in eternity, terrible as an army with banners. That, I confess, is a spectacle which makes our boldest tempters uneasy. But fortunately it is quite invisible to these humans. All your patient sees is the half-finished, sham Gothic erection on the new building estate.”

C.S Lewis *Screwtape Letters*





Utilitarian benefits of being part of a church body...



Expression of Our *Gifts* and Reception of Others' Gifts



“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

1 Corinthians 12:7-11
(1984 NIV)

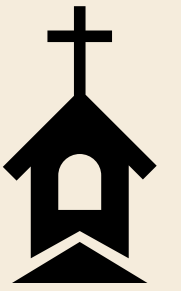


Protection

- Acts 18:9-11
- 1 Corinthians 5:5



Truth & Sanctification



- 1 Timothy 3:14-16

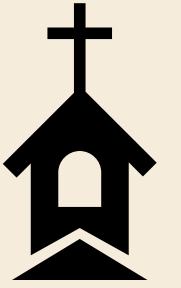


Joy & Comfort

- 2 Corinthians 7:6-8



Direction, Leadership & Affection



- 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8



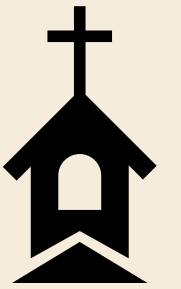


Strategy

Book of Philemon

- Build rapport
- Persuade the mind
- Persuade the emotion
(spiritual conversation)





Requirement:

To Love the Church/
Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 13





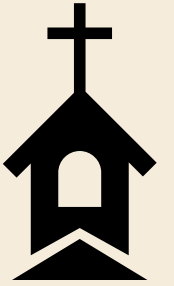
Your Responsibility to Leaders

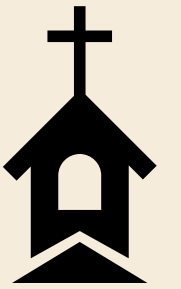
“Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
(1984 NIV)



Personal Testimony



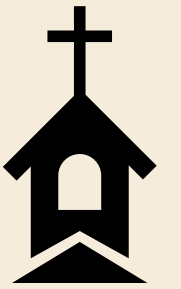


Prioritization of Church

Haggai 1:3-12



Personal Responsibility



“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:1-4

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.”

Philippians 2:14-15





Let Us Pray



