

GOD'S CHURCH...IS...BEAUTIFUL!

****SPIRIT-FILLED/FLESH-FILLED
PERSON/CHURCH**

**CHURCH-DIMINISHING
PROPAGANDA!**

**THE NEW TESTAMENT:
WHERE DOES IT START?**

**THE GOSPELS [Pre-Cross]:
'KINGDOM': 125 times
'CHURCH': 2 times**

**ACTS THRU REVELATIONS [Post-Cross]:
'KINGDOM': 28 times
'CHURCH': 120 times**

'KINGDOM' Shrinks by 446%
'CHURCH' Grows by 6000%

**THE TURN-AROUND IN FOCUS...
FROM KINGDOM TO CHURCH
IS IT DOUBLE?
TRIPLE?
QUADRUPLE?**

**IT'S A 65-TIME-'UPLE'!
A MASSIVE REVERSAL!**

**ACTS: JERUSALEM CHURCH...
APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES...
STARTING GENTILE CHURCHES**

**REST: TO 16 CHURCHES
LEAVING: 12 TO AND/OR FROM
CHURCH LEADERS**

The word 'Kingdom' doesn't go away...

But the Church becomes
The mechanism...
The vehicle...
That manifests
And demonstrates
God's kingdom
On earth!

**THESE TWO WORDS
are not only not-competitive.**

THEY'RE NOT ONLY COOPERATIVE!

THEY BECOME SYNONYMOUS...

WHEN WE SEE THAT...

THE CHURCH

IS

GOD'S NEW TESTAMENT

EXPRESSION

OF GOD'S KINGDOM...

ON EARTH!

BUT!!!

... DON'T...

DIMINISH...

THE IDEA OF...

'CHURCH'!

Ps 137.1-6 - By the rivers of Babylon,

There we sat down, yea, we wept

When we remembered Zion.

² We hung our harps

Upon the willows in the midst of it.

³ For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song,

And those who plundered us *requested* mirth,

Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

⁴ How shall we sing the Lord's song

In a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,

Let my right hand forget *its skill!*

⁶ If I do not remember you,

Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—

If I do not exalt Jerusalem

Above my chief joy.

Eph 1.20-23 [MSG] - All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but *forever*. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything.

At the CENTER of all this,

CENTER:

The most important,

pivotal point of it all.

The hub, core or heart.

Christ rules the church. **The church, you see, is not PERIPHERAL to the world;**

PERIPHERAL:

Supplemental or accessory.

Complimentary or auxiliary.

*It's not the warm up event.
It's the main event.
It's the featured film!*

**THE WORLD IS THE SCAFFOLDING.
THE CHURCH IS THE BUILDING.**

****FROM MAN'S
VANTAGE POINT...**

*THE SUN IS CENTRAL...
THE EARTH PERIPHERAL.*

*MILKY WAY HAS A CENTER...
SUN IS ON THE FRINGE...
PERIPHERAL!*

*HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF GALAXIES...
EACH HAVING HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF STARS!*

BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

EARTH WAS
ALREADY EXISTENT
ON DAY #1...

#2...

#3... [Land, plants, trees, fruit, vegetation]...

**DAY #4!??? –
THE SUN/MOON AND STARS!**

[HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF STARS!]

WHAT IS CENTRAL
FROM MAN'S VANTAGE POINT...

AND WHAT IS CENTRAL
FROM GOD'S...

ARE 2 DIFFERENT THINGS!!

The church, you see, is not PERIPHERAL to the world; the world is PERIPHERAL to the church. **THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S BODY**, in which he speaks and acts, **BY WHICH** he fills everything with his presence.

SO THERE'S CHRIST:

Sitting in the driver's seat.

Hands on all things.

Pushing all the buttons.

Pulling all the levers.

Christ: THE HEAD!
The Church: HIS BODY!

All governmental authority
for all that exists...
flows through

HIS BODY...
THE CHURCH...

Which is the extension of
Christ himself!

****A CITY... WITH OPEN GATES**

People like you and me...
coming and going.

Out on assignment...
Carrying messages...
accomplishing missions
and fulfilling projects.

RULING NATIONS...
AND JUDGING ANGELS!

"TO INFINITY...
AND BEYOND!"

Heb 10.24-25 - ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

CONSIDER:

Concentrate on.
Look more closely at.
Fix one's eyes on.
Detect. Notice.

ONE ANOTHER:

Each other... mutually!
"Hi, Fred!" "Oh! Hi, Joe!"

STIR UP:

Literally to 'jab' somebody
so they have to respond.
To motivate or stimulate.

Love... **FIRST.**
[Relationship with Jesus]
Good works follow.

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see **THE DAY** approaching.

FORSAKING:

To leave behind or to abandon.

ASSEMBLING:

Grouping together.

Gathering for a specific purpose.

To form a complete collection.

MANNER:

CUSTOM OR HABIT.

Ps 122.1-9 - I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

²Our feet have been standing

Within your gates, O Jerusalem!

³Jerusalem is built

As a city that is compact together,

COMPACT: CHABAR’:

Joined. Coupled. United.

Tied in a knot.

Everything touching. Heaped up.

JOSEPHUS:

“One and entire”

Walls. Valleys. Hills.

Walls all joined.

Buildings all joined.

Houses all joined.

⁴Where the tribes go up,

The tribes of the Lord,

To the Testimony of Israel,

To give thanks to the name of the Lord.

⁵For thrones are set there for judgment,

The thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

PEACE: SHALOM:

Peace that is the result

of being complete, sound, well.

“Nothing missing. Nothing broken.”

PROSPERITY: SHALAH’:

Quiet. Safe. At ease.

Secure and tranquil.

JERUSALEM: YERUSHALA'IM:
Founded or built on peace. City of peace.

SOLOMON: SHELOMOH':
SHALOM: PEACE!

⁷Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces."

⁸**For the sake of my brethren and companions,**
I will now say, "Peace be within you."

⁹**Because of the house of the Lord our God**
I will seek your good.

Rom 12.16 - ¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the *humble*. *Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

2+2=4?

2+2=5?

KNOWLEDGE PUFFS UP ---

LOVE BUILDS UP!

Knowledge can focus me on me.

LET'S SAY... WE HAVE A DISAGREEMENT!

LOVE focuses me on you!

And when it does...it...

[1] covers a multitude of sins

[2] And it builds you up!

UNBELIEF DEPENDS ON ME.

FAITH DEPENDS ON JESUS.

When I believe in Jesus...

I'm at peace with Him...

and with you!

HUMILITY COOPERATES WITH GOD.

AND IS HAPPY IN LOW PLACES!

PRIDE DEMANDS ITS OWN WAY...

AND FIGHTS TO BE ON TOP!

LOVE

FAITH

HUMILITY

EQUALS...

UNITY!!

BEING OF ONE MIND
DOESN'T RESULT FROM
MENTAL CONFORMITY

IT'S THE RESULT OF
SHARING THE SAME SPIRIT.

FLESH:
IN DISAGREEMENT = WAR

SPIRIT:
IN DISAGREEMENT = PEACE!
= 'ONE MINDEDNESS'!

Rom 15.5-7 – ⁵ Now may the God of **PATIENCE** and **COMFORT** grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore **RECEIVE** one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

PATIENCE:
Remain under. CHEERFUL ENDURANCE.

GRANT YOU:
Give. Put. Place. Bestow. Furnish.

RECEIVE:
**TO AGGRESSIVELY HOLD ONTO
WITH INITIATIVE
BECAUSE OF PERSONAL INTEREST.**

**TO TAKE TO ONESELF
AS A FRIEND.**

1 Cor 1.10 - ¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

JUDGMENT
*Purpose
Opinion
Decision-making
Intention*

I PROMISE YOU:
WHEN THERE IS...
*Group-wide humility.
Church-wide submission.
Border-to-border love...
Covering over multitudes of sins!*

IT'S BECAUSE...
THESE PEOPLE KNOW JESUS!

THESE PEOPLE FOLLOW JESUS!
THESE PEOPLE ...ARE **FULL OF...**

WISDOM FROM ABOVE!

Phil 2.2 - ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

ROMAN CHURCH...
CORINTHIAN CHURCH...
PHILIPPIAN CHURCH...
CROSSOVER MINISTRIES...

NO DIVISIONS!
PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER!
SPEAKING THE SAME THING!

ONE MOUTH!
ONE MIND!
ONE PURPOSE!
ONE LOVE!
EVERYBODY IN
ONE ACCORD!

Ps 119.113 - ¹¹³ I hate the double-minded,
But I love Your law.

HEBREW: DIVISION!

Dt 22.9-11 - ⁹ “You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled.

¹⁰ “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

¹¹ “You shall not wear a garment of different sorts, *such as* wool and linen mixed together.

**“You shall not come into
a plaid church wearing paisley!”**

***“You shall not sit in a church
That’s rooting for the 49’ers
and start cheering for the Chiefs!”***

And if you happen to be a
**PAISLEY-WEARING
CHIEF-CHEERER...**

Then you can’t cry out saying
*That your individualism
and identity in Christ
is being stifled!*

**Because what you wear
And who you cheer for
Is all ‘SOUL-STUFF’ ...**

BUT UNITY??!!
**THAT COMES FROM
THE SPIRIT OF GOD...**

**WHO IS
THE STRONGER
AND GREATER
REALITY!!**

Jd 1.19 - ¹⁹These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

SENSUAL: PSUCHIKOS' [adj.]: Soul-ish

DIVISIVE STUFF IS
Superficial packaging!

**IT'S THE SOUL...
IN CONTROL!**

Because the packaging...

The differences...

The disagreements...

The divisions...

Are all the soul...

OUT-OF-CONTROL!

But IF AND WHEN...

we are

Led by the Spirit...

WE...UNITE!

BECAUSE
THINGS LIKE
**LOVE
FAITH
AND HUMILITY...**

***[THAT ARE THE BY-PRODUCT
OF LIFE IN THE SPIRIT]...***

*THESE ARE THE THINGS
THAT
**BIND US
TOGETHER!!!***

Joel 2.7-11 [NIV] - ⁷They charge like warriors;

they scale walls like soldiers.

They all march in line,

not swerving from their course.

They march straight ahead

⁸They do not jostle each other;

*They don't run into...
Or crowd each other.*

each marches straight ahead.
They plunge through defenses
without breaking ranks.

⁹They rush upon the city;
they run along the wall.

They climb into the houses;
like thieves they enter through the windows.

¹⁰Before them the earth shakes,
the heavens tremble,
the sun and moon are darkened,
and the stars no longer shine.

¹¹The Lord thunders
at the head of HIS army;
HIS forces are beyond number,
and mighty is the army that obeys his command.
The day of the Lord is great;
it is dreadful.
Who can endure it?

*MSG – "God himself bellows in thunder
as he commands his forces.
Look at the size of that army!
And the strength of those who obey him!"*

Zeph 3.9 – ⁹"Then I will purify the lips of the peoples,
that all of them may call on the name of the Lord
and serve him **shoulder to shoulder**.

****WATER BUFFALO**

Ps 133.1-3 – 14th chapter in a train of

*'ascension songs'.
A song of ascents...
degrees... elevation.*

*UP... to the temple...
the Presence of God
in Jerusalem.*

ON PILGRIMAGE:

*Our progressive advancement
into experiential, personal, daily
relationship with God.*

*"I ... want...
to know... Him...*

BETTER!"

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

GOOD:
TO THE SIGHT:
BEAUTIFUL!

TO THE TASTE:
SWEET.

TO THE SMELL:
DELIGHTFULLY AROMATIC.

PLEASANT:
Pleasing. Delightful.
Joy-producing.

UNITY:
United together
Into one, compact unit!

² *It is* like the PRECIOUS OIL UPON THE HEAD.
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down ON THE EDGE OF HIS GARMENTS.

This is what allows...
Enforces...
And retains...

The state and condition of
TRUE, SPIRITUAL UNITY:

OIL
FLOWING FROM THE HEAD
ALL THE WAY DOWN
TO THE GARMENT HEM!

A CHURCH IN THE SPIRIT?
UNIFIED!

A CHURCH IN THE FLESH?
CANNOT BE!

³ *It is* like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—

LIFE ...FOREVERMORE.

Rev 21.9-11 - ⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain,

and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

GOD'S GIFTS...
ARE WONDERFUL.

BUT GOD'S FRUIT?
IT'S EVEN GREATER!

AND
THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDE...

ISN'T SO MUCH IN HER MOVEMENT...
THE GRACE OF HER WALK...
THE TWIST OF HER WRIST...
THE FLOW OF HER HAIR...

BUT THE AMALGAMATION...
THE COMBINED...
COMPOSITE EFFECT
OF ALL HER INTERRELATED PARTS
AS THEY COME TOGETHER!

HER BEAUTY
DOES NOT COME
SO MUCH
OUT OF WHAT SHE DOES...
BUT OUT OF...
WHAT SHE
IS!

IT'S THE LOVE
BETWEEN HER MEMBERS...
IT'S THE UNITY
BETWEEN HER PARTS...
THAT GIVES HER GLORY!

NO OTHER GROUP ON EARTH...
RELIGIOUS... OR EVEN CHRISTIAN...
CAN MATCH HER
INCOMPARABLE BEAUTY...

BECAUSE NO MATTER
HOW CAMOUFLAGED THEIR FLESH IS...
IT'S STILL FLESH!

BUT THE CHURCH
THAT
KNOWS
JESUS?

SHE WILL BE SHINING
FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

GLORIOUS! RADIANT!
A SIGHT TO BEHOLD!

GOD'S CHURCH...
IS...
BEAUTIFUL!