



EPHESIANS

>IN<

GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

There Has Always Been a Household

- Gen 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us ...
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Trinity = Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Harold Best

Even before he chooses to create, and before he chooses to reveal himself beyond himself, he eternally pours himself out to his triune Self in unending fellowship, ceaseless conversation and immeasurable love unto an infinity of the same.

Ultimately Creating Another Household

- Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
- Gen 2:19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them ... But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
- Gen 1:28 And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply ...

Then Choosing a Special Household

Gen 22:16 "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Then another Household

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesian 2:19-22

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.

Cicero

- “What is more sacred, what more inviolably hedged about by every kind of sanctity, than the home of every individual citizen? Within it's circle are his altars, his hearths, his household gods, his religion, his observance, his ritual; it is a sanctuary so holy in the eyes of all, that it were sacrilege to tear an owner therefrom.”

The First Century Household

- The Household was central:
 - Brought definition/identity to who you were as a person
 - In the household there was refuge, protection, identity, security and a sense of belonging
 - Even Caesar had a household Philippians 4:22
 - The Emperor was the head and the state was his household

P H Towner

- The household consisted of members of the immediate family and typically extended to include slaves, freedmen, servants and labourers, and sometimes even business associates and tenants. In principle, the householder ("lord") had full authority over the members of the household. He also had obligations and some legal responsibilities to them.
- But the cohesiveness of the unit depended more upon the sense of loyalty to the household which stemmed more directly from common economic, social, psychological and religious factors. The household provided members with a sense of security and identity that the larger political and social structures were unable to give.

Where Did the Early Church Meet And Why?

- The Temple/Synagogue
 - For teaching, evangelism and debate
 - Acts 18:4 Paul was trying to persuade Jews in the synagogue but gave up and decided to go to the Gentiles
 - Acts 28:20 – Christianity was initially seen by the early church as an extension of Judaism
 - Acts 19 – Paul originally was speaking in the Synagogue but was kicked out and shifted with the disciples to the Hall of Tyrannus
- Houses
 - Defined and identified God's people
 - It was a guide for behaviour and people's roles in the church
 - Acts 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.



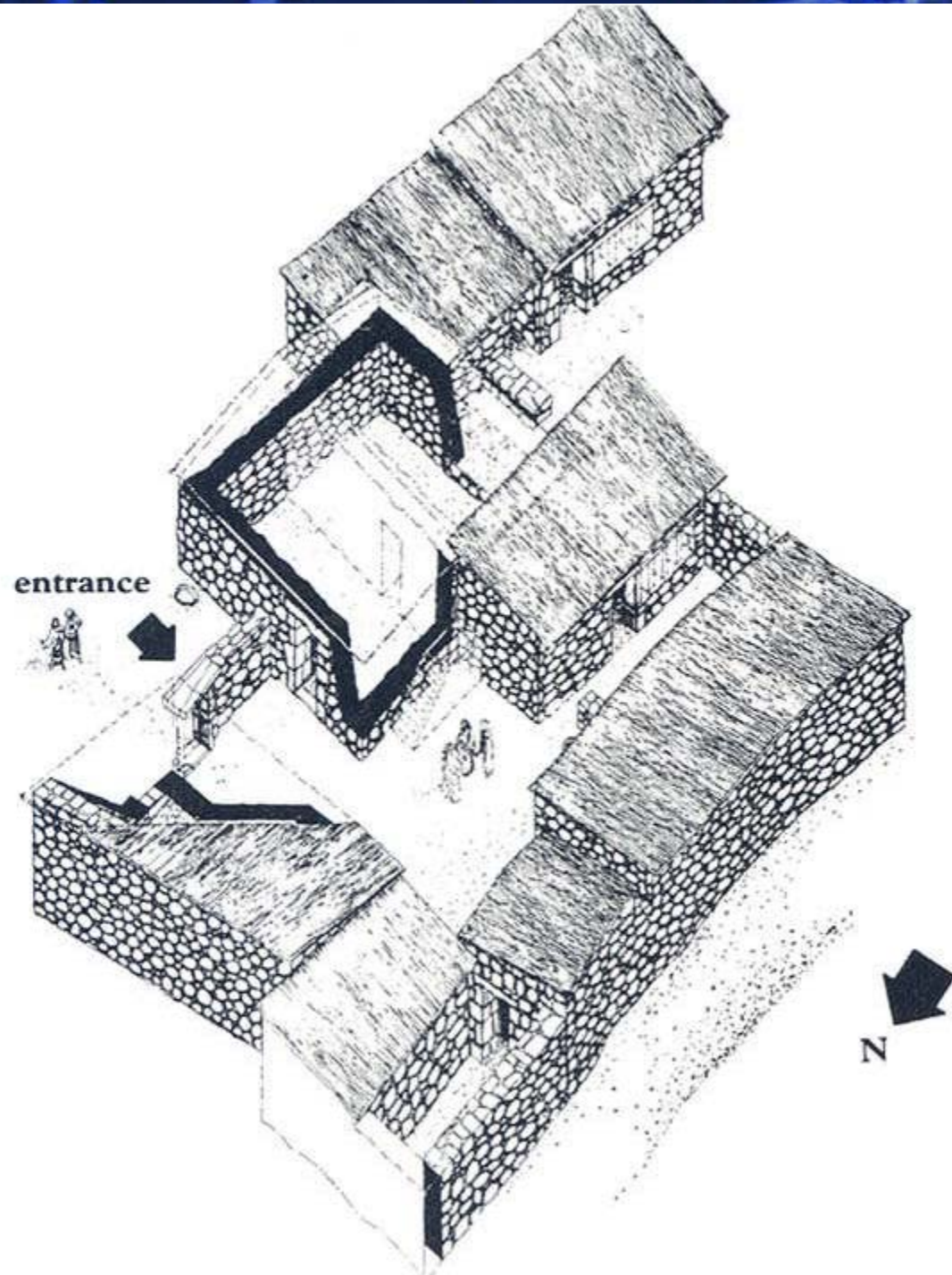
Garo Nalbandian, courtesy Fr. Virgilio Corbo

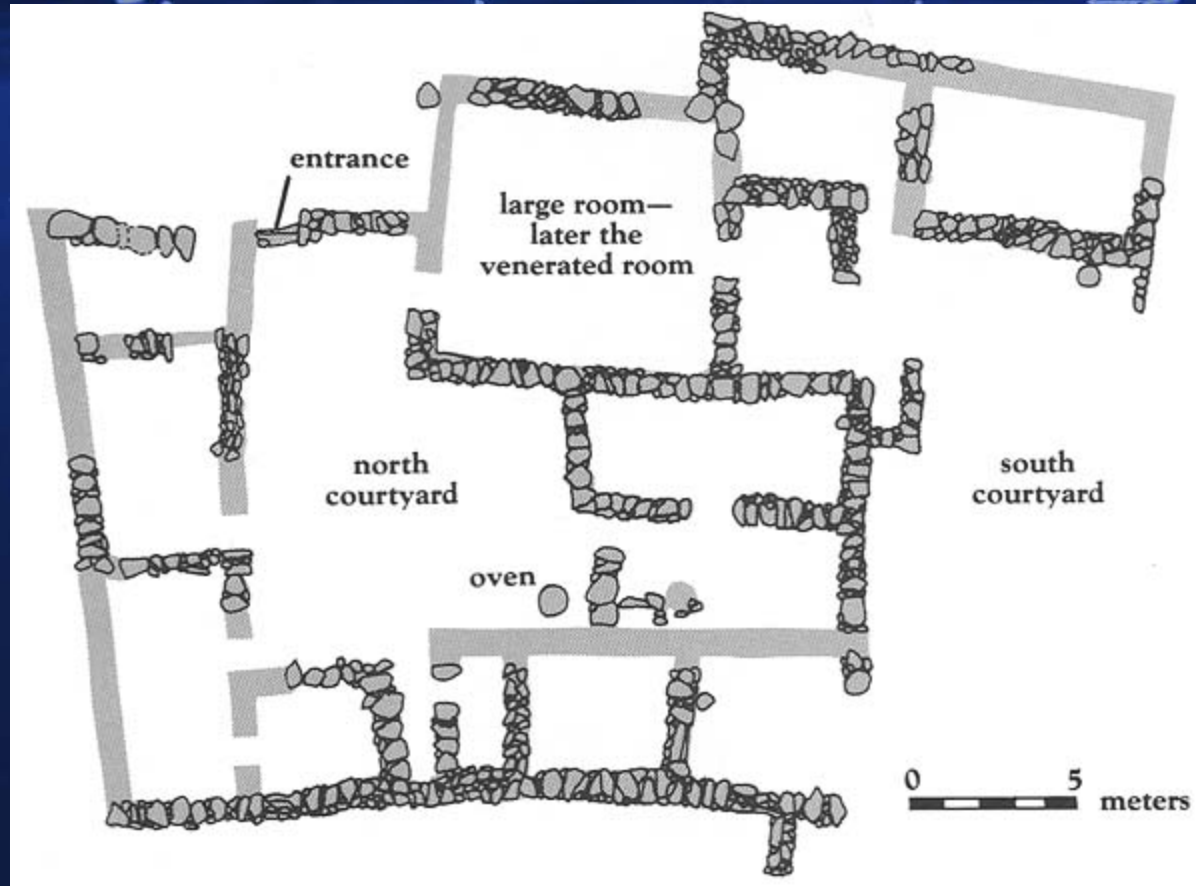
The Capernaum synagogue, residential area and octagonal church, clustered on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.



Beneath the foundations of this octagonal Byzantine church, archaeologists discovered a simple first-century CE house, believed to be the home of Jesus by Jesus during his Galilean ministry.







Why Meet In A House?

- God is 'Father' (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:9)
- Those who are saved by Jesus are God's children (Gal 4:1-7)
- Jesus is the firstborn of the family (Rom 8:29) and our brother (Heb 2:11)
- It follows then, that if the church is called the household of God (1 Timothy 3:15), and the Great House of God (2 Timothy 2:20) ... then it ought to spend most of it's time in a family/house context
- You worship in the place that defined who you are

Word Association Game

- Pen
- Potato
- Otter
- School
- Church

Word Disassociation Game

- Cat
- Donald Trump
- Book
- Space shuttle
- Individualism – would the answer be church????