

The image features a vast, ethereal landscape. The upper portion is a deep blue sky filled with numerous small, bright stars, creating a starry night effect. Below the sky, a thick, undulating sea of white, fluffy clouds stretches across the horizon. The clouds are illuminated from below, giving them a soft, glowing appearance. The overall composition is serene and majestic, evoking a sense of the divine or the celestial realm.

The Bride of Christ

“A sad and significant amount of consumerism exists in the church of Jesus Christ today. Similar to our behavior in a local mall, we move from church to church, shopping for just the right combination of what we want. In a typical congregation, the paid staff carry the burden of the church’s spiritual health while the members happily play their role as the recipients.”

Paul David Tripp

“This primary vertical relationship is foundational to everything the Bible says about relationships. When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now. ... When first things are put first, second things are not suppressed but increased.”

C. S. Lewis

Genesis 1:26

**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness.**



**WE ARE MADE
IN THE IMAGE OF GOD**

Genesis 2:18

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone;

“If God hath made us men, let us not make ourselves gods.”

Richard Sibbes



**THE REMEDY
FOR THE CHURCH**

The church is ... made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort. Christians come together ... because they have all been saved by Jesus Christ and owe him a common allegiance ... They are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus' sake.

D.A. Carson

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

BODY

Ephesians 4:15-16

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Romans 12:4-6

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

1 Corinthians 12:13-27

Ephesians 4:11-14

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

HOUSE/ BUILDING/ TEMPLE

Ephesians 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.

1 Peter 2:4-12

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love

Hebrews 3:13

Encourage one another daily

Ephesians 4:32

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.**

1 Thessalonians 3:12

**may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one
another and for all**

Romans 15:14

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Ephesians 4:1-2

urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens

God means his church to be a community of mutual support. “comfort one another,” (1 Thes. 4:18); “encourage one another,” and “build each other up” (1 Thes. 5:11) ... The word “one another” or “each other” emphasizes the reciprocity of Christian care. We are not to leave it to an elite of professional comforters or counselors. These have an important role to fulfill, of course, but supporting, caring, encouraging and comforting are ministries which belong to all members of the Body of Christ.

John Stott

FIELD

Luke 10:2

And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

“Fellowship with God, then, is the source from which fellowship among Christians springs; and fellowship with God is the end to which Christian fellowship is a means.

J.I. Packer

FELLOWSHIP

ORDINANCES

ENCOURAGEMENT



COMMUNITY

ACCOUNTABILITY

DISCIPLINE

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy & strength to the believer.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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