



## September 28, 2025

Glenn Garvin

**BIG IDEA** – Living on Mission together where **WE > ME**.

**Scripture Focus** – Philippians 1:27 NLT Above all, **you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.** Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that **you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.**

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In the room, on mission and in moments that matter.

Three stories of We Over Me.

### **In Death's Room.**

Natural death is intimidating, but it can also be beautiful. Sudden death is always numbing and other-worldly. I've been in the room just before, during and just after someone has left the room.

I have been in these dark rooms, but also in rooms where a miracle took place and everything shifted in a moment.

Do you know what all those rooms had in common?

**I was not alone!** In every tense moment, **where fear and faith collide;** or **when miracles happened before our eyes.**

I was with **FAMILY.**

And when you're with family, it makes all the difference in how life could be, should be **lived** going forward.

**Have you experienced the death of someone and had to face it alone? Or were you with family?**

## **Mission's Trips**

**Have you ever been on a Mission's trip? Where did you go and who did you go with?**

I have been on several foreign mission's trips where God showed up and moved powerfully. There were so many highs and lows and surprisingly – **amazing bonding moments with folks on these teams.**

In all those Mission trips, do you know the one thing they all had in common? –

**I was not alone! In every tense moment, where fear and faith collide. Or when miracles happened before our eyes. I was with FAMILY.**

And when you're with family, it makes all the difference in how life could be, should be **lived** going forward.

## **Moments.**

**Have you ever had an unforgettable moment that made you laugh and the story lives on as we tell it to others?**

**What is one moment in your life that you will never forget?**

**I was not alone! In every tense moment, where fear and faith collide. Or when miracles happened before our eyes. I was with FAMILY.**

And when you're with family, it makes all the difference in how life could be, should be **lived** going forward.

**When you're in the family of God...**

It makes all the difference in how life **could be lived** going forward.

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**Why three stories of We Over Me.** Because as we close this series about Life being better together, about choosing **unity** in the

**“ekklesia”** the assembly of the body of Christ, I want to emphasize...  
this:

**WE > ME.**

**It has to be! The Bible says it's the only way to be and do Jesus in this world.**

**And, because I could not have lived this life thus far without one another. I was a weird little loner until Jesus change my life forever at fifteen years old.**

I ran out of time last week, but I bring this back today:

**When we commit to a Godly community, we are saying “yes” to the kind of transformation that only happens in the context of real people doing real life together.**

**And in so doing, we become part of something bigger than ourselves, a movement of love, grace, and truth that reflects the very heart of Jesus in the world.**

**So, we don't just attend, we belong. We don't just visit, we invest.**

And being a part of a community isn't about convenience; it's about a calling to a heavenly family.

**There's good news—and a little bad news. The gospel is personal, yes, but it's also powerfully communal. Jesus transforms a life, but He also transforms our lives together.**

### **The good news!**

We get to live on mission side by side—it's way more fun (and a whole lot easier) to live out the Kingdom of God together.

### **The bad news!**

Mission unity means we don't always get our way. **That's right—the mission matters more than my preferences.**

## WE > ME

- The Kingdom of God is BIGGER than our preferences, and the win is bigger than my wants.
- God has already won – why would we not follow His lead?
- When God wins AND we join Him – we win... YOU win. (hint: **\*\*God always wins\*\***)
- When we yield control, we don't actually lose—we gain far more than we ever could alone.

"The Kingdom of God expands at the speed of relationship...  
The Gospel moves along the pathways of trust." Caesar Kalinowski

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## ME – Of course we have personal responsibility!

Every person is called, accountable, and has a part to play.

Jesus' challenges are about us making these very personal commitments to himself. Each one of us choosing to follow Jesus and obey the Holy Spirit.

Jesus & the Apostles made this clear!

### Jesus

- **Luke 9:23** – Then he said to the crowd, "**If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way**, take up your cross daily, and **follow me**."
- **Luke 9:62** – But Jesus told him, "**Anyone** who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."
- **Luke 12:48** – "But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. **When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.**"
- **John 14:15** – "If **you love me, obey** my commandments."

The Apostle Paul hits these personal responsibilities.

- Romans 14:12 – "Yes, **each of us will give a personal account** to God."

- Galatians 6:4–5 – “Pay careful attention **to your own work**, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else. **For we are each responsible for our own conduct.**”

**So, also Apostles Peter & John make it clear that we have these personal behaviors that we alone are accountable for.**

- 2 Peter 1:5–8 – **Because God, by his divine power, has given us everything we need for living a godly life...** “In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. **Supplement your faith** with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. **The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**”
- 1 John 2:6 – “**Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.**”

**"Discipleship is the process of moving from unbelief to belief, in the gospel, in every area of life." Caesar Kalinowski**

### **WE – Family of God/Body of Christ Responsibility**

**Following Jesus is not a solo mission; it’s about following within the body of Christ together.**

**We have been discussing these Bible verses the entire month.**

#### **Jesus**

- **John 17:20–23** – Jesus prays not just for individuals, but “that they may all be one... so that the world may believe.”
- **Matthew 28:18–20 – The Great Commission is a both/and! Individual and common-unity (community) opportunity.**

#### **Paul**

- **Romans 12:4–5** – “**So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**”

- **1 Corinthians 12:12–27** – The classic “body” teaching: many parts, one body, needing each other. **We talked about this two weeks ago.**

**Let’s look at this one specifically.**

- **Philippians 1:27** – “Above all, you must **live as citizens of heaven**, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that **you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith**, which is the Good News.” **This is our verse for today!**
- **Ephesians 4:11–16** – Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.**
  - **Who’s responsible? Those who God has given gifts to lead the church. What is their responsibility? To equip God’s people, building up the body of Christ.**
- **This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.** Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching.
  - **How long should this equipping and building up last? When there is unity, knowledge and full recognition of Jesus at work. So that we will all be mature, full-grown in our faith.**
- **We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.** He makes the whole body fit together perfectly.
- **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.**

- **As we are fit together and held together. As each part grows, we not only grow healthy, we grow full of God's love.**

### **Peter – we talked about last week!**

- **1 Peter 2:9–10** – “You (plural) are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...” (not just a collection of lone rangers).
- **1 Peter 4:10–11** – “**God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.** Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. **Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.** All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

### **John**

- **1 John 1:7** – “If we walk in the light... we have fellowship with one another.”
- **1 John 4:11–12** – “Dear friends, since God loved us that much, **we surely ought to love each other.** No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and **his love is brought to full expression in us.**”

### **Quick summary of where we've been:**

- **More than us BEING together; God wants us BEHAVING together.**
- **God designed us to belong in unity and diversity.**
- **BEING the Church instead of ATTENDING a Church.**
- **Unity is WE over ME.**

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### **Application.**

Do we have **ears** to hear what the Spirit of God is saying to us today?

The reason WE > ME is that God uses every single person in the body of Christ to help us continue to grow and stay on mission.

**The New Testament never erases individuality but consistently elevates community over individualism.**

**The Jesus life is personal but never private — always shared, interdependent, and collective.**

And the reason **unity means we don't always get our way**, is that we are easily **distracted by something, disgruntled with someone or dissatisfied with ourselves** in what God wants to do in our life and His Church.

### **Next Steps.**

As we move forward to both **BE and MAKE disciples**, I'm asking everyone to complete a free **30-minute assessment** through [AssessMe.org](https://www.assessme.org) **click for information**. This tool will help you discover your **spiritual gifts**, plus give feedback on your **personality, leadership style, skills, and next steps. Bottom line**—it will help us **grow and mature together**, and it will help us better understand and encourage each of you in your gifts.

Just click the sign up now to start the process!

Sign up now

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## **SCRIPTURES**

### **Luke 9:23 NLT**

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### Philippians 1:27 NLT

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## DIG DEEPER NOTES



[Dietrich Bonhoeffer.](#)

In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes about his time leading a secret seminary during Nazi Germany. **It was a small, tight-knit community of young men training for ministry under extreme pressure and threat. Life was simple, often difficult, but rich with spiritual depth. They shared meals, prayers, Scripture, and confessions. One day, someone asked Bonhoeffer why he insisted on maintaining such a close-knit Christian community in such dangerous times.** He replied that **the gift of being together in Christ** was not something to be taken for granted—it was a divine blessing that many Christians throughout history had longed for and gone without. Bonhoeffer believed that being with other believers, even in suffering, was essential to faithfulness. He wrote, **“The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.”**