

DON'T GO QUIET

GM // online // newbies

We are in our second part of looking at what it means to follow Jesus.

Last week we talked about getting the Gospel.

The good news that Jesus saves us from sin and shame and guilt.

This Gospel not only restores our relationship with God.

It brings us into God's family ... Our FATHER puts us into his community ... we call it the church.

Today we are going to look at what it means to follow Jesus by gathering around the gospel.

More directly, what does it mean to be the church?

Some associate with church like a social club.

- Pay your dues
- Come when you want
- Dress a certain way
- Great for entertaining and making friends.
- Foods not that great ... but it's free.

Some see the church as a hospital.

- Come in get your problems solved/healed and then leave.

Some see the church as a university.

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- Sunday is a classroom.
- I come to get equipped to go out and do my own thing.

But what is God's vision for his church?

We often think of the church as a building/place to go to.

And there we need to change our language.

The church is not just something you go to ... first and foremost it's something you are.

So the question we seek to answer is, "What does it mean for you and me to BE the church?"

First of all, the word church as it is used in the Bible means "called out ones". → Jesus' own words "In the world, not of the world."

The church is made up of called out individuals; people saved by Jesus OUT of darkness and brought INTO His kingdom.

Unfortunately we don't talk much about God's kingdom these days.

It sounds very medieval and some of us might even worry it is a slippery slope toward LARP'ing.

But that is the language of the Bible.

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That is the language Jesus used all the time.

He taught a lot about the Kingdom of Heaven.

He preached that he brought that Kingdom and was the Kingdom.

And his church is where is kingdom continues to manifest and spread throughout this world.

Now it is worth unpacking what God's kingdom is.

Graham Goldsworthy's great book "Gospel and Kingdom", puts it this way:

God's kingdom means God's people in God's place under God's rule.

That is a good succinct definition of the church.

We are God's people in God's place under God's authority doing God's will. [surrendered ppl/submitted ppl]

That is what it means to BE the church.

But we also have to look at how we live this out.

And the Bible gives us a great picture of this in 1 Corinthians 12.

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1 Corinthians 12:12-20

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** **For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? **18** **But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.** **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Following Jesus means you belong to a community because God added you.

This is a good place to start.

You can't buy your way in ... you can't earn your way in.

God saves you and brings you into his kingdom community.

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As it is described here. **He places us into the body of Christ.**

It says in Ephesians 5:23 that Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Jesus said to Paul on the road to Damascus ... why are you persecuting “ME” ... speaking about Paul’s persecution of the church.

The salvation package is that God knits you into the body of Christ.

Disciples of Jesus we need to learn a new kind of Body Language.

There is an implication here that cuts at the heart of American liberty and autonomy.

See, this knitting in means that we are united with Jesus.

But we aren’t the head ... we aren’t the chief.

We BELONG but we don’t get to call the shots ... Jesus does.

Following Jesus means being ALL IN to do His will

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As the church we are called to be a prophetic ppl. → [called to live prophetically.]

What does that mean??? → [less spooky than u think]

To quote our very own Phil Davis that means asking God, “Where do you want us to be.” And then living toward that in order to become that.

Disciples of Jesus are meant to stand out in this world like Jesus did.

That doesn't mean short hair parted on the side, Dockers, collared shirt, Bible on your hip.

Following Jesus means that He's leading ... not you.

We pray like Jesus taught us ... your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is heaven.

Our will is to live for God's glory not ours.

Our will is to advance God's kingdom not ours.

And doing God's will means doing it God's way.

And that means we don't do it in isolation.

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**Following Jesus means we are ALL IN TOGETHER
where God has placed us.**

1 Corinthians 12:14-26

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 **If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.**

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 **that there may be no division [di-vision = two visions] in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26**

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If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Christian community isn't Me, God and my Bible.

As we often say ... Lone Rangers are dead rangers; and Lone Rangers are dangerous rangers.

We are not called to live in isolation.

AND we are not called to shallow connections with other believers.

Like Isaiah says we are a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.

We are meant to dig in, dig down deep, get rooted and planted in the soil God's placed us.

God knits us into a local church body at specific places and time.

Now that means we need some good theology about how in control God is over our lives.

You are here right now b/c this is where God wants you.

Acts 17:26

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined

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allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

Jim Elliot was a missionary who died taking the Gospel to the Auca tribe in Ecuador.

Before the doors to go to the nations opened God had him in a season of waiting.

It was a time of impatient frustration for him.

But it was a time God used to shape his theology as well.

See, he thought he wasn't counting until he got on the mission field.

But God pushed pause to bring him to this revelation.

"Wherever you are, be all there! Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God." — Jim Elliot.

There are no insignificant places, no meaningless people or roles when you are ALL IN where you're at.

Now, we can get whipped up into a frenzy and live this way for a little while.

But let's be honest ... its hard to do.

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Following Jesus means we have to fight with faith to be ALL IN.

This passage brings up a couple of thought patterns that keep us from being ALL IN.

And we have to fight against them.

We either:

- think too little of ourselves, OR
- we think too much of ourselves.

1 Corinthians 12:15-16

NOTE FOR SLIDE: SHOW LIKE BELOW; RED PART AS RED

15 If the foot should say, “**Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,**” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “**Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,**” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

This isn't humility ... this is judging ourselves harshly.

“I'm not good enough ...”

“I'm not righteous enough ...”

“I can't give enough ...”

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“I can’t serve enough ...”

“What I bring to the table won’t really make a difference.”

If those are the conversations you are having with yourself ... that isn’t God planting those thoughts in there.

He’s already judged you worthy!

He’s qualified you in Christ!

He’s added you to his body!

He’s gifted and empowered you by the Holy Spirit!

Too many people in Jesus’ body disqualify themselves from ministry and don’t dare for Christ b/c of that mentality.

And it takes truth and faith to overcome those lies.

[12 spies went into Canaan. 10 said, we were like grasshoppers ... “I’m too small/insignificant” - No vision]

[2 had God’s vision ... “yes they are big but our God is greater!”]

I remember sitting with Jan and Ruth Rolar 8 years ago in MHC.

We could see that they would be awesome CG leaders.

Their current CG leaders thought they would be as well.

Everyone could see it except for themselves.

That is the power of being in community together.

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We get to call what is true.

I was on the phone with a lady in the church who was being pummeled with all kinds of lies and slander.

I had to speak truth over her and call out the lies.

That is how we fight. We fight with faith and truth!

And what is the truth? → Go to our truth source, the Bible, God's words. It never changes like the opinions and knowledge of man.

There are no small people and no small roles in God's kingdom.

God made everyone of us in his image.

That means something.

Even if you are here and not following Jesus.

You are still made in God's image.

There is an intrinsic value and dignity Christians have for all humanity: regardless of race, color, creed.

And b/c of salvation through Jesus that image is fully restored and being perfected by God.

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Which means that we shouldn't think too highly of ourselves.

1 Corinthians 12:21-22, 25-26

21 The eye **cannot say** to the hand, **"I have no need of you,"** nor again the head to the feet, **"I have no need of you."** **22** **On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,** and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable **we bestow the greater honor,** and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,
25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **26** **If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.**

When we are arrogant we can't see the intrinsic honor in others.

Christianity is always flipping the values systems of society.

Society always tends toward two extremes:

- It places honor and value on celebrity, fame, wealthy, successful.
- Or, it swings the pendulum the other way and says if you are the weak, the minority, the victim you are more important than everyone else.

But the gospel says we don't think that way.

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We don't bestow honor on ourselves or take honor for ourselves.

Rather we give it in grace to one another.

It doesn't matter what race, gender, income level ...

We are not a divided body ... we are ONE!

We are ALL IN Christ together.

And we fight for each other with our faith!

And it is worth the fight because

When we are ALL IN it has a multiplying impact.

In his book, *The Glorious Cause*, Robert Middlekauf writes about the USA's improbable triumph over Britain.

- Britain had more money / better trained army / bigger navy

But they didn't have what the American Revolutionaries had ... unity around a Glorious Cause.

Their glorious cause was liberty. // So is ours.

I'm going to read a passage from Isaiah that Jesus said he fulfilled.

But it is a passage that his church is carrying on.

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It is our GLORIOUS CAUSE.

So I've changed the pronouns from me to us.

Isaiah 61:1-2

**1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon us,
because the Lord has anointed us
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,**

Following Jesus means we are in a kingdom at war.

We fight for the poor, the brokenhearted, the captive to sin,
those bound/chained by guilt/shame.

We fight to see them liberated and restored into God's
grace and love.

God is calling us to be ALL IN.

The more of us that are ALL IN // together // united for the
same Glorious Cause ... the greater the impact.

PIC: Fingers into a Fist

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Acts 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** **And all who believed were together and had all things in common.** **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple **together** and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.**

This early church was ALL IN together for God's glory.
And it had a multiplying effect.

The Church needs you ALL IN.

All in with your life, your serving, and your giving.

Two weeks ago we announced that God was leading us to the Tourist & Event Center.

This is an opportunity ...

- we can stand back and watch // or even leave.

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- OR, we can say “This is the body/the church God has knitted me into ... I’m ALL IN.”

Two weeks we called everyone to pray about where to serve and how much to give toward the equipment we need.

Today is the day we put our ALL IN on the table.

This is more than just a moment ... this can be the start of something God might use for kingdom multiplication.

It can be the start of seeing ourselves as more than a rag-tag group of people hoping this doesn’t fall apart.

We need a bigger vision of who God is and what He can do with us.

There are stirrings of people feeling called to plant churches in cities & towns not too far from here.

We just sent out Jon and Odessa Lewis [4 yr old son Gideon] to plant a church in Goose Creek, SC.

In his first week there he’s become a coach for his son’s little league, and had 3 of his neighbors over for dinner.

How do you see this church?

“Too small to send out church plants.” [too insignificant to dare for Jesus]

OR, “God we want to step into all that you are calling us to!”

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I love the book of Nehemiah.

It shows us what God's unimpressive people can accomplish when they answer the call and are ALL IN.

Nehemiah 2:17-19

17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

And they did ...

Nehemiah 3:3-5

3 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. 2 And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

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4 And **next to them** Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And **next to them** Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And **next to them** Zadok the son of Baana repaired. 5 And **next to them** the Tekoites repaired, **but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.**

I love this unity.

They rose up with their brothers.

We are a family ... a body ... members knitted together.

We are ALL IN ... standing and working shoulder to shoulder.

Let's count ourselves worthy of the work God is setting before us.

Those nobles missed out. They either were too proud or didn't have faith in what God could do when people go ALL IN.

A wealthy businessman told me a story of a church he was in.

They brought property and started a campaign to raise money.

He just knew it would fail.

So he didn't stoop to give or serve or help.

A year later the building was built ... totally paid for.

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And as he walked into that new building on its first Sunday ... He felt God say to him ...

“Son, I can do this with you or without you.”

He missed out on the joy of being a part of what God did in that church during that season.

Since then he's leveraged his wealth and wisdom for God's kingdom.

He learned the lesson ... it's better to be ALL IN.

CALL UP BAND

On your seat is an ALL IN card:

- One side it has a checkbox of where you are going to serve.
- On the other side you can tell us what you've already given or pledge to give for the new equipment.

If you are a guest ... this is family business. Don't feel an obligation to fill this card out.

Now, if God is moving you to do that ... by all means!

We'd love to have you ALL IN with us.

Right now, we are going to take 2 minutes to allow time for you to pray and fill this card out.

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If you already have online giving setup you can give; just choose the category named “Havelock - New Venue Equipment”

If you plan to give by check or cash designate “Havelock - New Venue Equipment” in the checks memo or on the giving envelope.

If you can't give today but plan to give soon you can write that amount on the pledge line.

START 2 MINUTES

This has been a bold message.

But we serve an amazing God who takes our meager offerings of faith and multiplies them.

[kid gave Jesus his luncheable and it fed 3K]

As we take communion today I want us to do two things.

1. Bring your card you filled out and put it in the giving buckets at the communion tables. [fold in half]
2. Come and take communion remembering this: The only reason we can be ALL IN for Jesus was because he was ALL IN for us.
 - a. Come with Thankfulness, Joy, Gratitude.

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3. We come as members of ONE body ... ALL IN together. His people in His place under His rule doing His will for His glory.

PRAY

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