

# A WORLD CHANGED BY JESUS

*It's Not about GOING to church; It's about BEING the Church!*

**Matthew 20:25, 26**—Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it **OVER THEM**, and their high officials exercise authority **OVER THEM. NOT SO WITH YOU.** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”

**Matthew 23:8-12**— “But you are **NOT** to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have only one Master and **YOU ARE ALL BROTHERS** [equal]. And do **NOT** call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have **ONE FATHER**, and he is in heaven. **NOR** are you to be called ‘teacher,’ for you have **ONE TEACHER**, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

**John 17:20-26**—I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. . . . that they may be one as we are one . . . ”

**Romans 12.5**—So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

**Romans 12.10**—Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Philippians 2.3**—Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

**1Thessalonians 3.12**—May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

**1Thessalonians 4.9**—Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

**1Thessalonians 5.11**—Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Hebrews 10.24,25**—And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

That the world might be healed . . . — John 3.17

\*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

**James 5.16**—Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

**1Peter 4.8-10**—Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

**Romans 15.14**—Instruct one another.

**1 Corinthians 14.26**—What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, **EACH OF YOU** has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

**Romans 15.14**—I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent **TO INSTRUCT ONE ANOTHER**.

**Colossians 3.16**—Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you **TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER** with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

**1Peter 2.4-5**—As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like **LIVING STONES**, are being built into **A SPIRITUAL HOUSE** to be a **HOLY PRIESTHOOD**, offering **SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 2.19**—Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of **HIS HOUSE**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him **THE WHOLE BUILDING** is joined together and rises to become **A HOLY TEMPLE** in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become **A DWELLING IN WHICH GOD LIVES** by his Spirit.

**Romans 16.5**—Greet also the church that meets **AT THEIR HOUSE**.

**1 Corinthians 16.19**—The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets **AT THEIR HOUSE**.

**Colossians 4.15**—Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea,

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and to Nympha and the church **IN HER HOUSE**.

**Romans 12.1**—Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as **A LIVING SACRIFICE**, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship.

**1Peter 2.9**—But you are a chosen people, **A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Galatians 1.1**—Paul, an apostle . . . **TO THE CHURCHES** in Galatia.

**1 Thessalonians 1.1**—Paul, Silas and Timothy, **TO THE CHURCH** of the Thessalonians.

**2 Thessalonians 1.1**—Paul, Silas and Timothy, **TO THE CHURCH** of the Thessalonians

**1 Corinthians 1.1,2**—Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus . . . **TO THE CHURCH** of God in Corinth

**2 Corinthians 1.1**—Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus . . . and Timothy our brother, **TO THE CHURCH** of God in Corinth

**Colossians 1.1, 2**—Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to God’s holy **PEOPLE** in Colossae . . .

**Romans 1.1-7**—Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God . . . **TO ALL** in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people.

**Ephesians 1.1**—Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to God’s holy **PEOPLE** in Ephesus . . .

**Philippians 1.1**—Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God’s holy **PEOPLE** in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with **the overseers and deacons**.

**1Peter 5.1-4**—To the **ELDERS** among you, I appeal as a **FELLOW ELDER** and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be **SHEPHERDS** [pastors/elders] of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **NOT LORDING IT OVER THOSE ENTRUSTED TO YOU**, [Kleros - Clergy] but being examples to the flock. And when the

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Chief Shepherd [pastor/elder] appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**Hebrews 13.22-24**—I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you. **Greet all your guides and all the saints.** Those from Italy send you greetings. Grace be with all of you.

**Hebrews 13.7 (F.F. Bruce)**—Remember **THOSE WHO GUIDE YOU** who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

**Ephesians 4.11-16**—The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds (elders, overseers, guides) and teachers, to **EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY**, for building up the body of Christ . . . But speaking the truth [to one another] in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is **THE HEAD, INTO CHRIST**, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together **BY EVERY LIGAMENT WITH WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED**, as **EACH PART IS WORKING PROPERLY**, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

### Rise of Clerics, Sacraments, and Sermons

**Many of the church's fathers**—Tertullian, Cyprian, Arnobius, Lactantius and Augustine among them, had been professional rhetoricians before becoming Christians. (Norrington, *To Preach or Not To Preach*, pg. 30, Kindle Edition)

**Tertullian (Late 2nd Century/Early 3rd)**—“We have now amongst us a sister whose lot it has been to be favoured with sundry gifts of revelation, which she experiences in the Spirit by ecstatic vision amidst the sacred rites of the Lord's day in the church: she converses with angels, and sometimes even with the Lord; she both sees and hears mysterious communications; some men's hearts she understands, and to them who are in need she distributes remedies. Whether it be in the reading of Scriptures, or in the chanting of psalms, or in the preaching of sermons, or in the offering up of prayers . . .” (Tertullian, *Treatise on the Soul*, Chapter 9)

### Passive Spectatorship

**1 Corinthians 12.4**—There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

Hegeomai - Guide

**Hebrews 13.7 (KJV)**—Remember them which have **THE RULE OVER** you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

“I know what would become of my supremacy . . . No bishop, no King.” King James VI of Scotland

### Clergy / Laity Divide

The clergy/laity dichotomy is a tragic distinction that runs throughout the history of Christendom beginning in the third century. Despite the fact that multitudes dogmatically defend it, this distinction is without biblical warrant. The word “laity” is derived from the Greek word *laos*. It simply means “the people.” *Laos* includes all Christians—including apostles, prophets, evangelists, elders and teachers. The word appears three times in 1 Peter 2:9–10, where Peter refers to “the people [*laos*] of God.”

Significantly, the word *kleros* is never used to refer to church leaders. Like *laos*, it refers to God's people—for they are His heritage. According to the New Testament, then, all Christians are “clergy” (*kleros*) and all are “laity” (*laos*). We are the Lord's heritage and the Lord's people.

See <http://www.renewedheartministries.com/Sermons/jesusdialogue2/outlines/16hierarchy.pdf>

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ICU vs The Gym

Children Who Never Grow Up but Stay Dependent.

Patients Who Never Get Out of ICU

**Hebrews 10.19-25**—Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by **A NEW AND LIVING WAY** opened for us through the curtain [into the Most Holy Place], that is, **HIS BODY**, and since we have a great priest over the **HOUSE OF GOD**, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith . . . Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may **SPUR ONE ANOTHER** on toward love and good deeds, **NOT GIVING UP ON MEETING TOGETHER**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging **ONE ANOTHER**—and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Replacement or Supplement? / HeartGroups

**1 Corinthians 14.24,25**— . . . An unbeliever or outsider who enters . . . will bow down before God and worship him, declaring, “God is really among you.”

**Acts 2.40 -47**—Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer . . . They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**2 Peter 1:4**—Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in **THE DIVINE NATURE**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**Ephesians 3.10**—To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known **BY THE CHURCH** the manifold wisdom of God.

Within the early church we discover mutual love, mutual fellowship, mutual dependence, mutual honor, mutual submission, mutual dwelling, and authentic community. In the early church, there existed an eternal [originating within the Godhead of which they were simply conduits], complementary, and reciprocal interchange of divine life, divine love, and divine fellowship. There was an absence of command-style leadership. There was an absence of hierarchical structures. There was an absence of passive spectatorship. There was an absence of one-upmanship. And there was an absence of religious rituals and programs.

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# THE ONE ANOTHERS

*A Glimpse of the lives of the First Century Jesus Followers*

**Mark 9.50**—Be at peace with each other.

**John 13.14**—Wash one another's feet.

**John 13.34,35**—A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**John 15.12**—My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

**John 15.17**—This is my command: Love each other.

**Romans 12.10**—Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Romans 12.16**—Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not think you are superior.

**Romans 13.8**—Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.

**Romans 14.13**—Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

**Romans 14.19**—Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

**Romans 15.5**—May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.

**Romans 15.7**—Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

**Romans 15.14**—Instruct one another.

**Romans 16.16**—Greet one another with a holy kiss.

**1Corinthians 11.33**—So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together.

**1Corinthians 12.25**—So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

**1Corinthians 16.20**—Greet one another with a holy kiss.

**2Corinthians 13.12**—Greet one another with a holy kiss.

**Galatians 5.13**—Serve one another humbly in love.

**Galatians 5.15**—If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

**Ephesians 4.2**—Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**Ephesians 4.32**—Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Ephesians 5.19**—Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

**Philippians 2.3**—Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

**Colossians 3.13**—Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

**Colossians 3.16**—Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

**1Thessalonians 3.12**—May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

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**1Thessalonians 4.9**—Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

**1Thessalonians 5.11**—Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**1Thessalonians 5.13**—Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

**1Thessalonians 5.15**—Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

**2Thessalonians 1.3**—We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

**Hebrews 3.13**—But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

**Hebrews 10.24,25**—And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**James 4.11**—Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

**James 5.9**—Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

**James 5.16**—Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**1Peter 1.22**—Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

**1Peter 4.8-10**—Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

**1Peter 5.5**—In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.

**1Peter 5.14**—Greet one another with a kiss of love.

**1John 1.7**—But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**1John 3.11**—For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

**1John 3.23**—And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

**1John 4.7**—Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

**1John 4.11,12**—Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**2John 5**—And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.