

EKKLESIA!

Open, Mutual, Every-Member-Functionioning, Participation vs. Passive Spectatorship (Handout 1)

Within the Godhead we discover mutual love, mutual fellowship, mutual dependence, mutual honor, mutual submission, mutual dwelling, and authentic community. In the Godhead, there exists an eternal, complementary, and reciprocal interchange of divine life, divine love, and divine fellowship. There is an absence of command-style leadership. There is an absence of hierarchical structures. There is an absence of passive spectatorship. There is an absence of one-upmanship. And there is an absence of religious rituals and programs.

John 17.20-26—My prayer is not for them alone. 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. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Ephesians 1.22.23— And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his **BODY**.

Revelation 21.2— . . . a **BRIDE** beautifully dressed for her husband.

Galatians 6.10— . . . the **FAMILY** of believers.

Ephesians 2.15— . . . so that in Himself He might make the two [Jew and Gentile] into one **NEW MAN**, thus establishing peace.

1 Corinthians 9.7— . . . Who plants a **VINEYARD** and does not eat the fruit of it? (see also Luke 20.9-16)

John 15.5—I am the **VINE**, **YOU** are the **BRANCHES**;

Revelation 19.19— . . . His **ARMY**.

Revelation 21.2— . . . the holy **CITY** . . .

1 Corinthians 3.9— . . . you are God’s **FIELD**, God’s **BUILDING**.

1 Peter 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.

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 Thes-

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”— John 14.9

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

salonians

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

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.

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 . . .

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*.

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.

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.

(This is the only letter that includes “overseers” (plural) in whom the letter is addressed to, and even this occurrence mentions them only in passing. Following this greeting, Paul talks to the church about its present problems. And he never again mentions the overseers. This trend is highlighted in the book of Hebrews. Throughout the entire epistle, the writer addresses the entire church. Only at the very end does the writer offhandedly ask the believers to greet their “overseers.” Hebrews 13.24)



EKKLESIA!

Open, Mutual, Every-Member-Functioning, Participation vs. Passive Spectatorship (Handout 2)

Poimen - a herdsman, esp. a shepherd.
[pastors 1, shepherd 13, shepherds 4]

Bishops are simply guardians (episkopoi), not high-church officials.

Pastors are caretakers (poimen), not professional pulpiteers.

Ministers are busboys (diakonos), not clergymen.

Elders are wise old men (presbuteros), not ecclesiastical officers.

See the extra—"Hierarchical Authority" for more information:

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

Over and over withing Paul's writings we find him referring to beings such as:

"principalities and powers" (Colossians 2.15), "thrones and dominions", (Colossians 1.16), "angels and archangels" (Romans 8.38 & 2 Thessalonians 4.16); "elements" (Galatians 4.3 & Colossians 2.8) "heights and depths" (Romans 8.39), "rulers, authorities, powers, and spiritual forces of evil" (Ephesians 6.12).

In Paul's writings we find them: 1) seeking to separate us from the love of God (see Romans 8.38), 2) ruling over the lives of those who live far from the love of God (see Ephesians 2.2), 3) holding us in servitude to their rules (see Colossians 2.20), 4) holding us under their tutelage or instruction (see Galatians 4.3)

Wherever the Cross is genuinely preached, the unmasking and disarming of the Powers takes place. And wherever genuine Ekklesia is accurately practiced through open participatory gatherings, the church demonstrates to other realms that Jesus Christ—God's manifold wisdom (see 1

Ephesians 4.11,12—The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some shepherds and teachers, to **EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY**, for building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4.15-16—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.

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

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.

1 Corinthians 1.23—But we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and **THE WISDOM OF GOD**.

Colossians 2.15—And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Ephesians 6.12—For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Genesis 1.26—Then God said, "Let us make humankind in **OUR IMAGE**, according to **OUR LIKENESS**; and let them have dominion . . ." (See again John 17)

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. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father"—John 14.9

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Corinthians 1.23, 24)—is alive enough to lead a fallen race who used to belong to God’s enemy.

Mark 10.29-30—“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

A New and Living Way:

No More Temple, Sacrifice, or Priest, but a Sarkos: A living “Body”:

sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. 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.

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.”

Relativity of the New Testament Epistles

1 Peter 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.

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, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 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.



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THE ONE ANOTHERS

A Glimpse of the Calling of the Early Church

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.

1Thessalonians 4.9—Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

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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.



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