

Establishing Churches 5 – Everyone Has a Part

1 Timothy 3:14-15 - 14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

1. A Community of Self-Sacrificing Love

- John 13:34-35 - Jesus told His disciples “just as I have loved you, you also love one another”

2. A Community of Radical Unity

- John 17:22-23 - Jesus prayed, saying, “that they may be one even as we are one”

3. A Community Devoted to the Word of God

- "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching" (Acts 2:42)
- "every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching" (Acts 5:42)

4. A Community with the Very Real Power and Presence of God

- We Are the Temple
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own...

5. A Community Where Every Member Serves (and Leads)

- Ephesians 4:1-7 – 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, 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, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- Ephesians 4:11-16 - 11 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. 15 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.
 - “properly” = *metron* = a measure... think of a tape measure
 - Used 3 times in this section of Ephesians 4
 - Used more here than anywhere else in the Bible
 - Vs. 7 - But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
 - Vs. 13 – the goal is that we attain “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”
 - Vs. 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.
- The NT Church in Action
 - Barnabas
 - Seven Deacons

- Stephen
- Philip
- Ethiopian Eunuch
- Saul / Paul
- Cornelius
- Mary
- Mark
- Unnamed Believers scattered due to persecution
- Prophets and prophetesses: Agabus, Lucius, Simeon, Manaen, the daughters of Philip...
- Priscilla and Aquilla
- Luke
- Erastus
- Lydia
- Epaphras
- Tertius
- Those who had churches in their homes - Priscilla and Aquilla (1 Corinthians 16:19), Nympha (Colossians 4:15), and Philemon (Philemon 1:2), all those who met house-to-house in Acts (Acts 5:42)
- Romans 16:1-16 – 1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. 3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. 5 Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. 8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. 11 Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. 12 Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. 15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- Even the Sunday Service Itself
 - 1 Corinthians 14:26 - What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- Romans 12:4-8 - 4 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: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.