

CHRISTIANITY: ALWAYS PERSONAL, NEVER PRIVATE

Selected Scripture
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INTRODUCTION: BLESSED BY COMMUNITY

I love the local church.

Local Church

An exclusive community, designed by God, loved by Him, committed to one another, with an eternal destiny

? What does the Bible say about the local church as a community.

I. GOD ALWAYS WORKS IN GROUPS

A. THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Exodus 19:5, 6a

Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

B. THE CHURCH

1 Peter 2:9, 10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

C. INDIVIDUALS ADDRESSED WITH A GROUP IN MIND

1. Adam and Eve, Noah

Genesis 1:28; Genesis 9:7

2. Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3

3. Moses, Exodus 3:4-8a

4. David, 2 Samuel 5:2

5. Elijah, 1 Kings 18:22; 19:10

6. Jesus, Matthew 1:21

Romans 5:6, 8, 15

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

Romans 8:34

who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

1 Corinthians 15:3

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

6. Timothy and Titus

1 Timothy 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5

7. Philemon, Philemon 1, 2

Point: God always works in groups, in communities.

II. THE LOCAL CHURCH IS CHRIST'S COMMUNITY

Community

1: a unified body of individuals: such as a: the people with common interests living in a particular area; b: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society

1 Peter 2:9, 10

A. A CHOSEN RACE

B. A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

? What is our job on the earth?

Revelation 5:9, 10

"Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

C. A HOLY NATION

The word "nation" is *ethnos*.

Galatians 3:26-28

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Colossians 3:11b

...there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

D. A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S POSSESSION

Point: We are the community of Christ in Saunders County.

CONCLUSION: MY COMMUNITY

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

We are a family.

APPLICATION

? What about those who profess a love for Jesus, but refuse to connect to a local community of faith?

There are 75 "one another" statements in the Bible.

? How do you obey the "one another" commands without another person?