

## TOGETHER (AGAIN) IN HIS NAME

*In preparing to come back again into the hall we use for Sundays, the lady who rents it to us told me, we can't use the kitchen facilities or make our own coffee or tea.*

*I said, 'Ah, that's sad because we love to sit and share together after the meeting. It is part of our fellowship and we sometimes have to tell people it's time to pack up because they don't want to leave.'*

*She said, 'Yes, it's important to socialize.'*

*I thought, 'Ok, fair enough, but she doesn't understand that Fellowship is far more than just socializing. Fellowship is a spiritual connection where our Born Again Hearts connect at a spiritual level.*

### THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SAINTS IS A SPIRITUAL REALITY

WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN we are connected spiritually with God Himself

**BUT WE ARE ALSO CONNECTED TO EVERY OTHER BELIEVER SPIRITUALLY!**

We may be experiencing '**SOCIAL DISTANCING**' but as believers, we can never experience '**SPIRITUAL-DISTANCING**' because our spirit in the Holy Spirit transcends all distance and cannot be infected by any physical pandemic.

We may be socially separated ... but we can never be '**spiritually-separated**'.

1 Corinthians 5:3-4 God's Word Translation **SLIDE**

*Although I'm not physically present with you, I am with you in spirit ... <sup>4</sup>When you have gathered together, I am with you in spirit. Then, in the name of our Lord Jesus, and with his power ...*

### WE ARE SPIRITUALLY ONE WITH GOD & HIS PEOPLE

Ephesians 4:3

ENDEAVORING TO **KEEP** THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

NB: You can't endeavor to keep something you don't have ...

WE ALREADY HAVE THIS UNITY OF THE SPIRIT ...

So when we come together and relate together something spiritual happens.

**ALSO:** This fellowship doesn't only happen when we sit down and have coffee and tea together. This fellowship also happens at a distance over the phone and over the internet ... Whenever our hearts connect and there are no barriers of distance ...

### SPIRITUALLY, WE LOVE THE COMPANY OF ONE ANOTHER

*We desire and love to be in the company of like-natured people. It is inherent within us. **THIS IS FELLOWSHIP ... COMMUNION ...***

*We are not so much '**like-minded**' people but, '**like-hearted**' people – we have the same nature of Christ within us.*

**WE ARE PEOPLE NOT ONLY WITH THE SAME IDEOLOGY BUT THE SAME NATURE ...** and that nature is the nature of Christ.

David had a glimpse of what it means to have a New Testament Heart when he said –

Psalm 122:1

*'I was glad when they said to me ... "Let us go to the house of the Lord".'*

**THIS IS FELLOWSHIP.**

THE NON-BELIEVER cannot do this as they have not been born again. When they are among us, they may feel something emotionally and their hearts may awaken in revelation ... But until they are born again in their own spirit ... there is nothing in them to spiritually connect with other believers.

#### THE MANIFESTATION OF JESUS

However, something else happens when we come together in his name!

There is also a spiritual manifestation of Christ's presence among us.

In our fellowship, we not only experience one another spiritually ...

WE ALSO WE EXPERIENCE THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF ... SPIRITUALLY ...

Matthew 18:20 ESV **SLIDE**

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, **there am I among them.***

**Moses asked for God's presence to go with Him and it did.**

But now, in the New Testament we have God's presence not only with us but among us ...

*'Christ promises a real, actual presence, though invisible, as true as when he appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, as true as when the Shechinah shone in tabernacle or temple. **The rabbis had a saying that if two sat at table and conversed about the Law of God, the Shechinah rested upon them.'***

Pulpit Commentary

#### I AM THERE **AMONG** THEM

**HE SPIRITUALLY MANIFESTS AMONG US ... AND WE FEEL IT ...**

Luke 24:32 NASB

*They said to one another, "Were not **our hearts burning within us** while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"*

It's interesting that they realised in retrospect about their hearts ... Often we become aware of spiritual experiences after the Lord was there. That's why it's good to meditate on His word after we've heard it ...

In this atmosphere, many things can begin to happen as we allow the Lord to minister to us. As we worship the Father, emotional needs are met and souls are healed; sometimes physical healing happens ...

## **PROBLEM 1**

PEOPLE WANT THE EXPERIENCE WITHOUT THE PRE-EMINANCE OF JESUS.  
PEOPLE PURSUE THE POWER WITHOUT THE PERSON OF JESUS.  
PEOPLE SEEK THE MANIFESTATION WITHOUT THE MAN, JESUS.

Because the atmosphere of a meeting changes ... peace and joy flows and miracles begin to happen ... PEOPLE TRY TO CONTROL IT ...

*When I was a younger Christian, I heard pastors say, 'We want the singing to bring an atmosphere that will help me preach'.*

*ONE CHURCH HAD WORKED OUT THE FORMULA TO GET THE PRESENCE ...  
I was told by one of the musicians that they had a formula to bring the presence of God. It was: Sing 3 fast songs and 1 slow song, then the Holy Spirit comes.*

**YET JESUS SAID, WHENEVER YOU SIMPLY GATHER IN MY NAME,  
THEN CONSEQUENTIALLY I'LL BE THERE AMONG YOU ...**

**Matthew 18:20** ESV **SLIDE**

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.*

## **PROBLEM 2**

**SOME FELLOWSHIPS GATHER IN THEIR OWN NAME  
- LAODICEA GATHERED IN THEIR OWN NAME**

Revelation 3:17 **SLIDE**

*Because you say, 'I am [spiritually] rich, I have become wealthy, and I have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

## **LOOK WHERE JESUS WAS**

**Revelation 3:20** International Standard Version **SLIDE**

*Look! I am standing at the door [outside] and knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me.*

**THIS IS THE DOOR OF THE LAODICEAN CHURCH & JESUS WAS OUTSIDE!**  
**IF YOU GATHER IN YOUR OWN NAME JESUS WILL NOT BE PRESENT AMONG YOU.**

**SOME PEOPLE GATHER IN THE NAME OF THE LEADER**

**1 Corinthians 3:4**

*For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?*

**SO, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GATHER IN HIS NAME? SLIDE**

**1. IT MEANS WE COME TO REST UNDER HIS BANNER – HIS AUTHORITY.**

**WE REST IN WHO JESUS IS ... WHAT HE HAS DONE.**

*Before I was diagnosed with cancer, I STARTED A CHURCH.*

*It was a Do-It-Yourself church pioneered by my own effort ... And I got sick ... However, many years later, after I had come into His Grace and Sovereignty, by His Grace ... **I OPENED THE DOORS TO A NEW FELLOWSHIP OF HIS CHURCH.** At this time, the Lord impressed upon me, 'You are not building your church, **I AM BUILDING MY CHURCH**'. (Matt 16:18)*

**WE OFTEN TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE NOT OURS TO TAKE ON**

**We try and take on the responsibility that isn't ours. It's beyond us  
No person has been anointed or appointed to RUN the church other than THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF!**

**The Government is on His Shoulders. (Isaiah 9:6)**

**Ephesians 1:22-23 SLIDE**

*... He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be **head over all things to the church,** <sup>23</sup> **which is His body,** the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

**Colossians 1:17-18**

*... He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> **And He is the head of the body, the church,** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.*

**SO, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GATHER IN HIS NAME? SLIDE**

**2. IT MEANS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL OF GOD CONCERNING JESUS ... AND CHRIST IS MANIFESTED AMONG US ...**

**Romans 1:1&3 SLIDE**

*Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the **gospel of God** <sup>3</sup>**concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,** who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh*

## WE PREACH WHO JESUS IS ... WHAT JESUS HAS DONE ...

Some ministers preach another gospel – things like ...

PROSPERITY ... PROPHECY ... PROGRAMS ... ANGEL MANIFESTATIONS ...

YES, THERE ARE MANIFESTATIONS ...

BUT IT'S NOT JESUS CHRIST AMONG THEM!

**WHY?**

**BECAUSE IT'S NOT DONE IN HIS NAME!**

1 John 4:2

*BY THIS YOU KNOW THE SPIRIT OF GOD: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSES THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD.*

MANY SERMONS NEVER EVEN MENTION HIM

Dr Martin Lloyd Jones said that if someone preaches a sermon and doesn't mention the name of Jesus, make that the last sermon you listen to from that person.

Colossians 2:8 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, which are based on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the world **rather than on Christ.***

IF MINISTERS PREACHED THE GOSPEL ... THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST WOULD BE MANIFEST

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GATHER IN HIS NAME?** **SLIDE**

3. IT MEANS WE PROCLAIM THE TRUTH OF THE CRUCIFIED & RISEN CHRIST IN PRAISE, AND CHRIST IS MANIFESTED AMONG US ...

WE PROCLAIM WHO JESUS IS ... WHAT JESUS HAS DONE ...

In Matthew 16:13&15 Jesus brought up the issue of HIS identity. He said:

... 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?'

Then

... 'Who do you say that I am?'

Peter has the revelation of Jesus as 'The Christ the Son of the Living God'. (verse 16)  
People say this is the foundation of the church ...

But notice it wasn't just the fact the Peter had this great and true revelation of Jesus,

**BUT THAT PETER PROCLAIMED IT IN PRAISE -**

Matthew 16:16-18 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*

THIS IS WHAT MADE IT FOUNDATIONAL

You may have noticed that when we sing our praise songs we sing about CHRIST and WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST ...

WE PROCLAIM IN PRAISE WHO JESUS IS ... FROM OUR NEW HEARTS OF REVELATION ...

WE ARE GATHERING IN HIS NAME ... AND HE MANIFESTS AMONG US.

WE DON'T SING BEGGING SONGS ANYMORE ...

WE DON'T SING SELF-SONGS ABOUT HOW MUCH POWER WE HAVE ...

#### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GATHER IN HIS NAME? SLIDE**

4. IT MEANS WE COME TOGETHER AND SHARE OUR HEARTS OF FAITH IN CHRIST ... AND CHRIST IS MANIFESTED AMONG US ...

**WE TESTIFY AS TO WHO JESUS IS ... WHAT JESUS HAS DONE ...**

**People think His presence falls on us**

*An old song we used to sing was, LET YOUR PRESENCE FALL.*

*'Lord come upon us now and release your power and let your presence fall.'*  
*(Hillsong Worship ... Simply Worship album)*

It's like we have to get ourselves into the right spiritual state before the Lord will zap us with His presence ...

BUT THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD DOESN'T FALL FROM THE SKY ... THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD FLOWS FROM WITHIN US ...

#### **CHRIST'S PRESENCE IS WITHIN YOU**

Colossians 1:27 **SLIDE**

*... Christ in you the Hope of Glory.*

So as we begin to share our hearts of faith with one another He starts to flow out from within us and His presence manifests among us ...

#### **SLIDE CHRIST WITHIN US BECOMES CHRIST AMONG US**

John 7:38-39 Jesus said ...

*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.** <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive ...*

**OUR SPIRITS REJOICE & FLOW FROM ONE TO ANOTHER  
- SHARING TESTIMONIES**

*Many years ago I was sitting in my car with a young guy sharing my testimony when he had a vision of Jesus outside walking toward him and calling him. He later gave His life to Christ.*

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD DWELT IN THE TEMPLE ...  
NOW IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WE ARE THAT TEMPLE ... HOUSING GOD ...**

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

*Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

**AS WE SHARE JESUS TOGETHER, WE BECOME A HABITATION OF GOD  
THROUGH HIS SPIRIT**

**Ephesians 2:22**

*In whom you also are being built together for **a dwelling place of God** in the Spirit.*

**Hebrews 2:12** Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*... I will declare **Your name to My brothers**; in the midst of the congregation I will sing **Your praises**. (Quote from Psalm 22:22)*

**As we sing praises to God, our spirits rejoicing together, Jesus Himself sings praises with us.**

**Matthew 18:20** ESV **SLIDE**

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, **there am I among them**.*