

HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

SEVEN KINGDOM VALUES AND THE EKKLESIA NEW WINESKIN FOR A NEW SEASON SERIES

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TEXT: Matthew 16:18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My *Ekklesia* (church); and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the *kingdom of heaven*; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” [Review]

Matthew 18:15 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED**. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

INTRO: TRUTHS ABOUT THE KINGDOM AND THE EKKLESIA

TRUTHS ABOUT THE KINGDOM (I am finishing what I left off last week):

1. The Kingdom is the rule and reign of God.
2. Kingdom comes from two words: 1) “King” (Jesus is the King) and “dom” (short for dominion), which means the rule and reign of King Jesus.
1. This is not a physical Kingdom. There are no borders, no passport. It has no physical army. It is a spiritual Kingdom. (John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”) Not a theocracy. *Not nationalism*. Nationalism means that you are proud and happy when your nation does good. This world is going to pass away, but His Kingdom is eternal. We are not seeking first our nation but His Kingdom, yet we still



have to do what is right and just in our nation. That is a value that transcends any geopolitical nation. He wants righteousness and truth in all nations.

2. You become a citizen of this Kingdom when you invite Jesus to be the King and Lord of your life. Luke 17:21 “The Kingdom of God is within [entos] you.”
3. “The Kingdom of heaven” and “the Kingdom of God” are used interchangeably and synonymously 78 times in the Gospels. (I am going to use “the Kingdom of heaven” in my message to give you a visual picture of how the goal of establishing the Kingdom is to have heaven on earth.)
4. The Kingdom came through Jesus, it was further advanced and established through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and it is still increasing and advancing through the Ekklesia. (Matthew 26:29 “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”)
5. It will be fully realized through the second coming of Jesus when He creates a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). In summary:

THE EKKLESIA IS TO ADVANCE AND ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH THROUGH PRAYER, PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, WHICH INCLUDES HIS COMMANDMENTS AND HIS VALUES (Mark 11:17, Matthew 24:14, Matthew 28:18-20) IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Without Him, we cannot. Without us, He will not.

Last week, I covered certain truths about the Ekklesia (this is primarily review).

A. WHAT THE EKKLESIA IS NOT:

1. IT IS NOT A BUILDING. IT IS NOT A SERVICE.
2. The Church that began as a movement has become a monument. The roots of this misbelief go right back to the belief we have been taught, that the Church was born in the Upper Room, inside four walls. This is not true. The Church was born on the streets the day Peter preached the first sermon and thousands of people acknowledged Jesus as Messiah. It began in the Upper Room, but as they went to the Temple at the hour of prayer, the Spirit was still upon them, manifesting tongues, joy, and laughter. Peter gets up and preaches, and 3,000 people get saved.

B. WHAT IS THE EKKLESIA?

1. CALLED OUT, GOD’S PEOPLE, GOD’S “CALLED-OUT ONES”
2. The Ekklesia is the legislative body or the government of the Kingdom. Where two or three gather in His name, they bring the manifest presence of



God and the establishment of God's government on earth. In the Roman Empire, it took only two to three in a given society, with Roman sanction to represent the government of Rome.

3. In times of war, when a foreign nation occupies a geopolitical nation, there usually rises up a resistance force of the nationals that form underground "cells" to fight the invaders. This planet was created by a Triune God, and the delegation of stewarding this planet was given to Adam and Eve. The enemy, Satan, hijacked this planet and became the prince of this world. God has a strategy to take back His planet, not by taking it by force but by capturing the hearts of men and women. He allows them to invite Jesus to be their King, and each time two or three gather together, they form a cell for the Kingdom of Heaven. They are to resist through prayer, preaching with signs and wonders following, and by multiplying the cells until they so influence society that it looks more like heaven than the geopolitical nation that they are in.
4. The Ekklesia is the highest authority in God's Kingdom under King Jesus Himself.
5. The Ekklesia are the ones who have the authority to see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Now we come to the second time the word *Ekklesia* appears in the Gospels, in Matthew 18, which we read as our text for this morning.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: I want to speak on Church Discipline and the profound significance of how God values His Ekklesia from the truths of Matthew 18:15-20.

I. CHURCH DISCIPLINE FOUR-STEP PROCESS

A. STEP #1: GO TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER IN PRIVATE

1. **Matthew 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."**
2. The language is family language.
3. Who is my mother, my brother, and my sisters?
4. If he responds to you and repents, you have won your brother.

B. STEP #2: TAKE ONE OR TWO OTHERS WITH YOU

1. **Matthew 18:16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED."**
2. It doesn't say, "Take a church leader," but it is implied that leadership is involved. Most likely it is someone else who is aware of this person's sin.



3. **People who are not part of the problem or the solution should not be involved.** And because leaders are involved in bringing resolution to the problem, you bring a leader with you. If you can solve the problem without a leader, better.
4. This keeps the issue from causing further division to the church through gossip and slander.

C. STEP #3: TELL IT TO THE CHURCH

1. Here it does imply leaders, like pastors, being involved because they have the authority to discipline and remove the church member (the application of binding and loosing in church discipline).
2. This is important that God would establish pastors and apostles in the church to bring discipline if necessary. E.g. Ananias with his wife, Sapphira, in Acts 5:1.

D. STEP #4: REMOVE HIM FROM THE CHURCH

1. **Matthew 18:17 “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”**
2. “A Gentile or a tax collector” means a sinner: someone not right with God, and thus not part of the family of God.
3. This sounds harsh, but what do you do with an unbeliever? You love them, and you share the gospel with them. If they repent, they are back in.

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PASSAGE: SEVEN VALUES OF THE EKKLESIA

A value is something that you value to be true in your life. You build your priorities and life practices around those values.

A. FAMILY: HE CALLS HIS EKKLESIA HIS FAMILY

1. **“If your brother or sister sins...”**
2. He made us in His image and likeness. The Godhead is a family.
3. From the very beginning of creation, He wanted a family. He came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). **The Ekklesia is now His restored family.**
4. **Matthew 12:46 While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. 47 Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” 48 But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” 49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He**



said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

B. LOVE: JESUS LOVES THE EKKLESIA AND THUS DIED FOR THE CHURCH

1. Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.
2. Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.*’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*”
3. Our first neighbor is our nuclear family. The second is the Ekklesia.
4. Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
5. We must love what Jesus loves. We must love the church with all her flaws and imperfection.
6. You won’t find a perfect church, and if you do, it won’t be perfect because you are there.

C. HOLINESS: HE WANTS HIS EKKLESIA TO BE HOLY

1. “If your brother *sins*...”
2. He created the church as a means to become holy. One of the primary purposes of the church is to help us to become Christlike.
3. He is coming for a “bride without spot or wrinkle.”
4. Ephesians 5:27 That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be *holy* and blameless.

D. ACCOUNTABILITY: HE WANTS THE EKKLESIA TO BE CORPORATE SO THAT THERE IS ACCOUNTABILITY IN COMMUNITY

1. Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three have gathered together in My name...”
2. When it is you and Jesus, there is no accountability. “I don’t need the church. It’s me and Jesus.” We are so independent.
3. “God spoke to me...” Without submitting that word, it is pride and arrogance.
4. We have the Declaration of Independence, and rightly so. We fought to be independent from the tyranny of England and specifically King George III.

5. But we understood the importance of interdependency and formed the *United States*. There are 50 “one another’s” in the Bible, which you cannot do just by yourself. You need the Body of Christ.
 6. Optavia: The powerful thing about this company is that they assign a coach who holds you accountable.
- E. SPIRITUAL COVERING (OR ALIGNMENT): HE WANTS THE EKKLESIA TO BE UNDER EPHESIANS 4:11 LEADERS FOR SPIRITUAL COVERING AND PROTECTION**
1. The third step of telling it to the church so that they will be excommunicated implies pastoral covering.
 2. God has given tremendous authority to apostles and pastors to bind and loose. In this context, it is that if you forgive a person’s sins, God forgives them.
 3. **John 20:21** So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” **22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.”
 4. This is so important in Scripture, and yet many don’t value the importance of Spiritual Covering. In 50 years of walking with the Lord, I have always been under a spiritual covering as a believer and as a pastor. E.g. Larry Tomczak, John Wimber, Peter Wagner, Bill Johnson.
 5. Our God is a God who has established authority: authority in the home, authority at work, authority with government, and authority in the church.
 6. **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
 7. I have seen so many bad things happen to people when they are out from under a covering. Just like an umbrella is to protect you from the rain, spiritual covering protects you and your family.
 8. **In addition, God wants you to grow in spiritual authority. I have learned in walking with the Lord, that you have to be *under* authority before you can *be* in authority.**
 9. He wants to teach us that there is tremendous authority when we are aligned and in unity, especially apostolically aligned. (Announce the School of Apostles.)
- F. UNITY: GOD WILL ANSWER PRAYER WHEN THERE IS UNITY WITHIN THE EKKLESIA**

1. **Matthew 18:19** “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.”
2. The word agree is the Greek word *sumphoneo*. We get the word “symphony” from it. It means unity and harmony.
3. Jesus prayed that we would be one several times in John 17.
4. **John 17:20** “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

G. GLORY OR HIS PRESENCE: GOD WILL MANIFEST HIS PRESENCE, HIS GLORY, WHEN THE EKKLESIA MEETS IN UNITY

1. **Acts 1:14, Acts 2:1**

CONCLUSION: Prophetic word from Pat Robertson about unity and harmony, and the dream of the harvest angels. God spoke to me, “Strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).