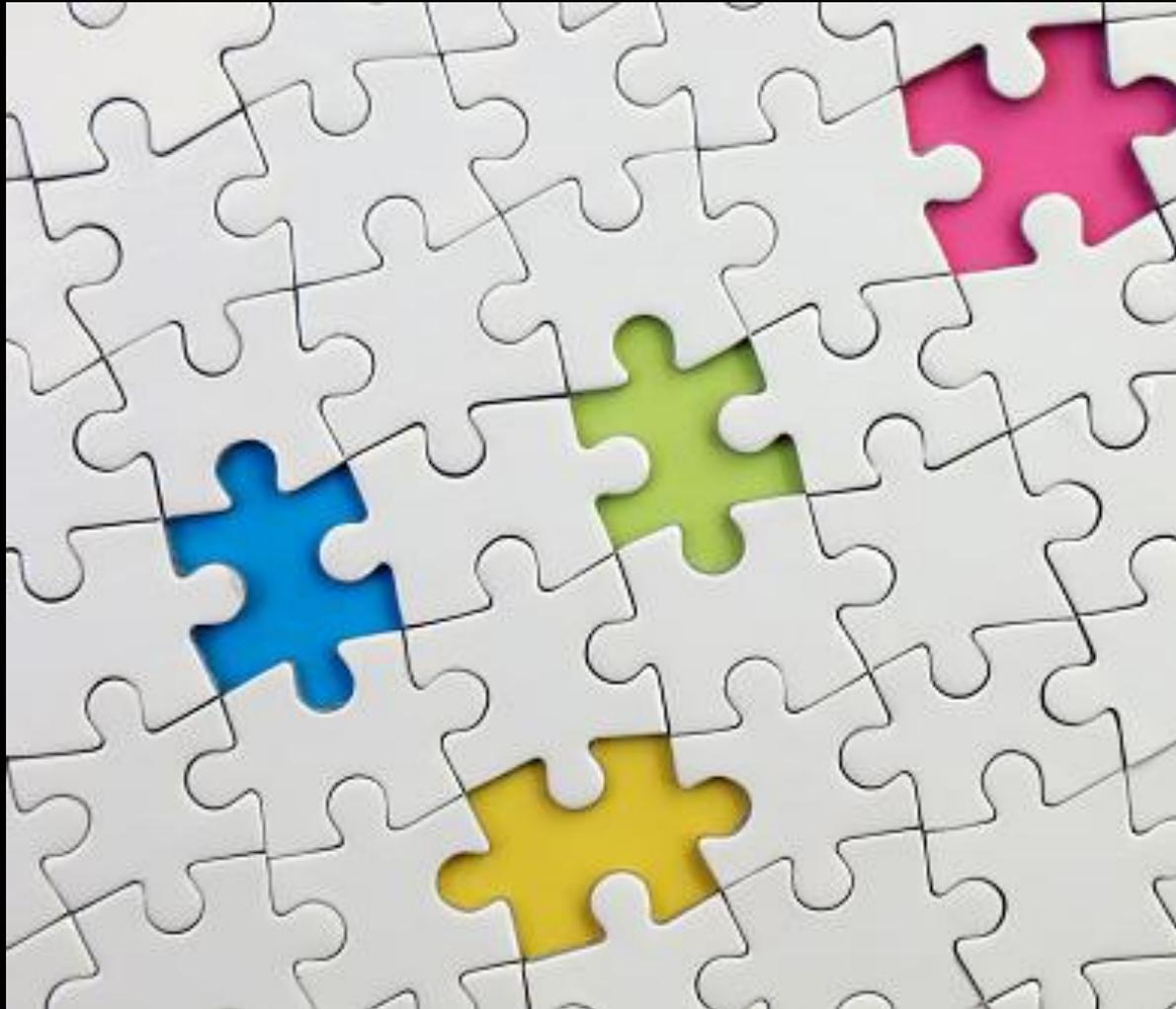


**RELATIONSHIPS
IN THE
CHURCH**

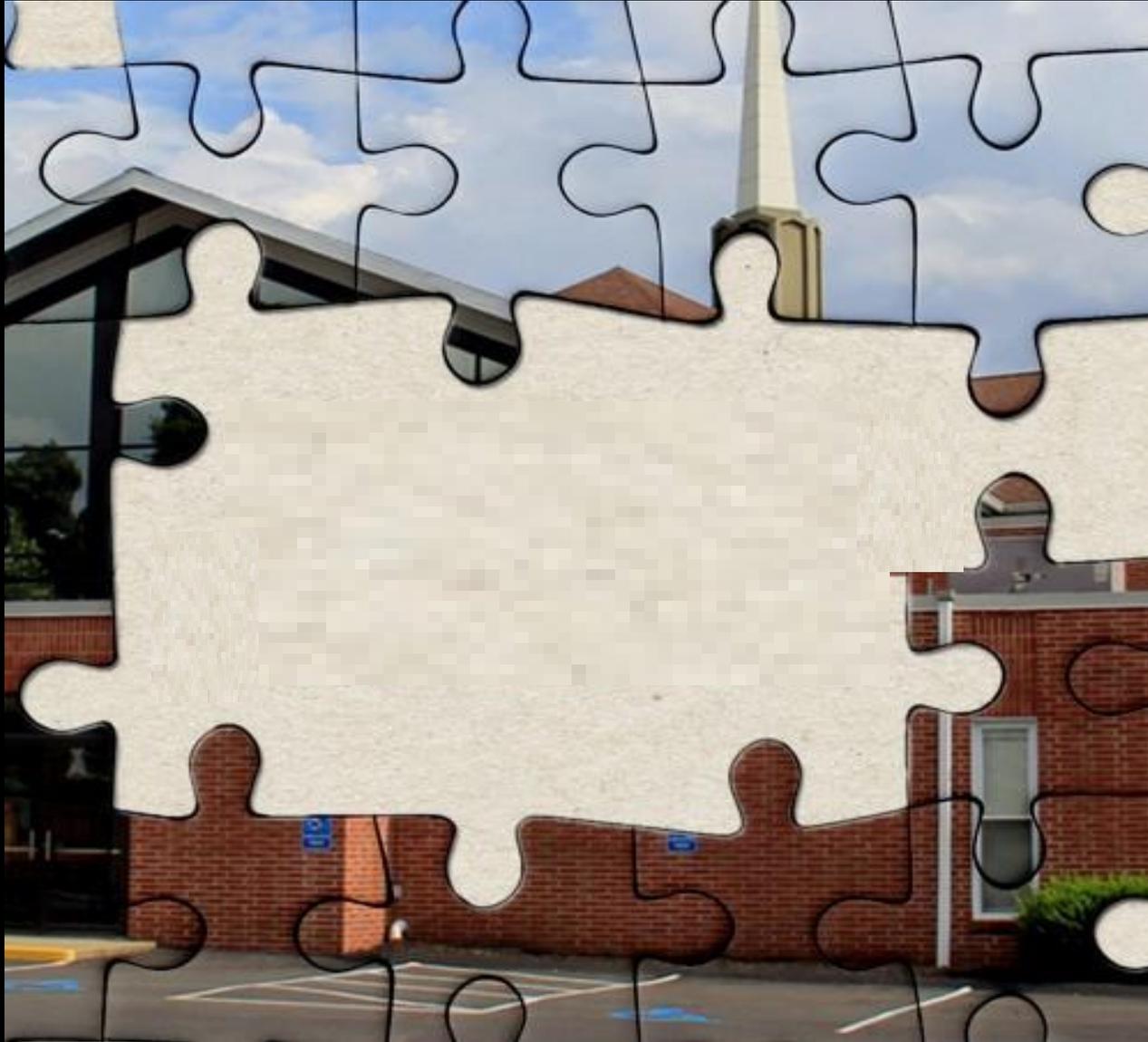
Introduction



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A. God's desire is that we be joined together

Ephesians 2:21-22

**21 In whom all the building fitly framed together
groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

**22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation
of God through the Spirit.**

B. Church = *ekklesia* = a calling out

**C. What is God's plan for relationships within the
CHURCH?**

I. Christlike

A. Our relationships with one another should be the same as Christ relates to us

1 John 1:6-7

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- 1. Our lifestyle should validate our friendship with Jesus**
- 2. Our friendship with Jesus will cause us to share fellowship with one another**
koinonia = partnership for mutual benefit

I. Christlike

B. Relationships within the church should be loving

1 John 4:19-21

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

II. House To House

**A. Friendships within the church should not be
“Sunday only”**

Acts 2:42

**And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine
and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

Acts 2:46

**And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple,
and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their
meat with gladness and singleness of heart,**

II. House To House

B. The New Testament church was connected to each other

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - continued

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - continued

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

III. United

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - continued

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

A. If we disconnect ourselves from one another, we deform the body of Christ

B. A deformed body cannot do the things a whole body can do

C. The body of Christ is to draw others to Christ

IV. Redemptive

A. Jesus came to redeem lost humanity back to God

Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Ephesians 2:16

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

IV. Redemptive

B. Our relationships and unity in the church should draw people to Jesus

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

C. Jesus' prayer for the church is that the world sees our relationship in Christ

John 17:20-21

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

V. Redemptive

D. The early church answered Christ's prayer - do we?

Acts 2:46-47

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people.

And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

V. Compassionate

A. We are to identify with and respond to the needs of others

1 Corinthians 12:26

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

B. The love of Christ within us compels us to reach out in love to those in need

Galatians 6:2

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

VI. Helpful

A. They shared whatever they had with those in need

Acts 2:44-45

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

**B. Material possessions were held in an open hand
not with a clenched fist**

1 John 3:17

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

ARE WE THE
CHURCH CHRIST
NEEDS US
TO BE?