



**“Out of complexity,
find simplicity”**

—Albert Einstein

**But I fear, lest somehow, as
the serpent deceived Eve by
his craftiness, so your minds
may be corrupted from the
simplicity that is in Christ.**

—2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV

**⁴²And they continued steadfastly
in the apostles’ doctrine and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
and in prayers. ⁴³Then fear came
upon every soul, and many
wonders and signs were done
through the apostles.**

**⁴⁴Now all who believed were
together, and had all things in
common, ⁴⁵and sold their
possessions and goods, and
divided them among all,
as anyone had need.**

**⁴⁶So continuing daily with one
accord in the temple, and breaking
bread from house to house, they
ate their food with gladness and
simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God
and having favor with all the people.**

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. — Acts 2:42-48

Simply stated, church is...

- a believing community, not just a belonging community.

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know —

²³...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” — Acts 2:22-24

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” — Acts 2:37-38

⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
—Acts 2:40-41

Simply stated, church is...

- a believing community, not just a belonging community.
- a relationship, not an organization.

Colossians 1:15-23

The Church:

- A Building Ephesians 2:19-22
- A Body Ephesians 4:15-16
- A Flock 1 Peter 5:1-2
- A Family Ephesians 1:3-5
Ephesians 3:14-15

“This community is not merely the social gathering of people with common values, but rather a people who display proof of God’s redemptive work in the world. This ‘proof’ flows forth from converted individuals whose transformation is authenticated through their interaction with each other.”

“This community, the church, is intended to bear testimony to the restoration of fellowship with God and each other—a community of self-sacrificing love and support that stands in stark contrast to the fallen world.”

“Jesus himself established this as the authenticating fact of our faith when he said, ‘By this all people will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’ (John 13:35).

Was this not the preeminent testimony of the first century church in which ‘they had all things in common?’” —Michael Craven

Simply stated, church is...

- a believing community, not just a belonging community.
- a relationship, not an organization.
- reciprocal in function, not individual for consumption.

Reciprocal Commands: 19 Positive

1. Love one another, John 13:34-35
2. Receive one another, Romans 15:7
3. Greet one another, Romans 16:16
4. Care for one another, 1 Cor. 12:24
5. Submit one to the other, Eph. 5:18-21
6. Forbear one another, Eph. 4:1-3
7. Confess your sins one to another, James 5:16
8. Forgive one another, Colossians 3:12-13
9. Be kind one to another, Eph. 4:32-33
10. Serve one another, Galatians 5:13-14

Reciprocal Commands: 19 Positive

11. Bear one another's burdens, Galatians 6:2
12. Be hospitable to one another, 1 Peter 4:9
13. Pray for one another, James 5:16
14. Build up one another, Rom. 14:19; 1 Thes. 5:11
15. Teach one another, Colossians 3:16
16. Exhort one another, Hebrews 3:12-13
17. Admonish one another, Colossians 3:16
18. Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, Ephesians 5:18
19. Prefer one another, Romans 12:9-10

Reciprocal Commands: 7 Negative

1. Do not judge one another, Romans 14:13
2. Do not speak evil of one another, James 4:11
3. Do not murmur against one another, James 5:9
4. Do not bite and devour one another, Galatians 5:25-26.
5. Do not provoke one another, Gal. 5:25-26
6. Do not envy one another, Gal. 5:25-26
7. Do not lie to one another, Col. 3:9-11