

# THE CHURCH: THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Houses of Light Church • July 29-30, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Eph. 2:19-22

***"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by[e] the Spirit."***

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. To understand what the church is, we must first know that God is Three and is one, that is, God is a community in Himself. The desires of the Father for the Son are immense and the desires of the Son for the Father are great and the Spirit of love between them congregates them in eternal delight. God enjoys God from eternity to eternity.

***Jn. 17:24 'Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.'***

- B. Although God is complete in Himself; Throughout all of Scripture God has manifested his desire to dwell in the midst of the people that He created and redeemed for Himself.

***Lev. 26:11-12 "I will make my dwelling[a] among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. <sup>12</sup> And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people."***

- C. It is difficult to understand how it can be that a God fully satisfied in Himself who does not need anything from anyone, desires us and wants to extend His communion towards His creation. The only explanation is his great love (Jn. 3:16). In fact, the time will come when we will enjoy that face-to-face communion with Him for all eternity.

***Rev. 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."***

- D. The revelation of God is completely linked to the revelation of the community that God is; If God is a community, what should we be? When people do not understand this plan, they may be saved but they do not know why and after a while they begin to exchange the great privilege they have of being included in the family of God for things that are superficial.

## II. WHAT MAKES US FAMILY OF GOD?

- A. It is not the fact that we like to meet in the same place on Sundays; What makes us family is also not the fact that we like the same messages; **Above**

all, what makes us brothers is if you were born again by the Spirit and you are a child of God.

**Jn. 1:12-13 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."**

- B. When we are born of the Spirit we become a family but the family does not exist without the revelation and fellowship of the Spirit. **We need to spend time with mature men and women in Christ who remain faithful to the Lord involved in the divine plan.** The people who have prevailed is because they had those who encouraged them. **If you are not involved in the church you are not involved in God's plan either.**
- C. **If your participation in the church is just attending is not enough,** submit your life to your pastors, listen, learn and meditate; you don't need to rush to talk or post something. The only urgency you need to have is to know him and enjoy more of the divine character together with all the saints (**Eph. 3:18; 4:16**). We are not like something casual that began two thousand years ago, Jesus grafted us into that great plan of God and thus we became God's family.

### III. ENTONCES ¿QUÉ ES LA IGLESIA?

**Matt. 16:18 "...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."**

- A. Jesus came and established a church, not just a random group of people. The apostle Paul prays that we can understand the riches of the knowledge of God and tells us that the church is not an institution that failed, nor an institution lacking in glory and power, on the contrary, it is the body of Christ and He has been placed as head..

**Eph. 1:19-23 "and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."**

- B. The relationship between looking at God and understanding the depth of the church is not something to be taken lightly, each of us must understand who we are in the body of Christ:

**Rom. 12:4-5 "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."**

- C. Sometimes we are in a hurry to do things but there is negligence when it comes to belonging to each other. **The knowledge of God needs us to move to the knowledge of each other.** The depth that you have with the brothers is the same depth that you will have with God:

**1 Jn. 4:20 'If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot[a] love God whom he has not seen.'**

- D. **The most damaging thing you can do is to think that you were called as an individual and not as a community. There is a concept that salvation is individual but the great truth is that we will be saved together as a church.**
- E. **The big difference between the secret place and the prayer room is precisely that the prayer room is there for the people to love God together. It is very important that you pray alone with God and that you develop God's gifts in private but the fullness of our calling is in Christ and it is together. Stop dreaming so much individually and be part of your church in the practical and everyday. If your mission is not tangible, it is not real. Paul's example of when his dedication and love for the church is noteworthy.**

**Phil 1:23-24 "I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup> But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account."**

- F. **It is as if Paul said: I can go up now and be with Christ at any time I want but because of you I stay here.**

#### **IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**

- A. **So according to all Scripture, the church presents two characteristics of what we are: We are family and we are the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE, IN ITS NATURE, A FAMILY THAT HOSTS THE PRESENCE OF GOD. That family is not built with what I think it needs to be**

**Ef. 3:8-12 "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[b] God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that THROUGH THE CHURCH the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory."**

- B. **The apostle Paul speaks of a mystery that is the richness of the gospel and he was granted to announce to the whole world that they can be part of God's plan and are called to manifest God's desires to principalities and powers through the church. So the purpose of the church is to manifest all the desire of God in this age.**
- C. **We all want to be in the prayer room and in the different ministries but we need to get involved in the full reality of what the church is. The church is the means by which God chose to manifest his plan now and the place that hosts the presence is not only a prayer meeting, it is the communion of living stones.**

- D. **The church needs to be a glorious glimpse of what we will see eternally.** One day God will dwell among men but that is a kind of glimpse of what we will see forever. Our communities are called to dwell with his presence now.

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. The reality of the church in **Acts. 2** is the one that brings together all the aspects that we have mentioned: mission for all nations, prayer meetings, the apostles' doctrine, social justice, etc. We do not need to divide the church in order to complete what is in our hearts, the very nature of the church needs to be the foundation where everything comes from..

***Ef. 3:20-21 "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory **IN THE CHURCH** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."***

- B. May a weight of responsibility fall on you whether you do something simple but may the Lord use you for His glory. **The more satisfied you are in God, the more free you are to sacrifice yourself and the less you care about the personal success you are going to have because all the success you need you already have.**
- C. **Be part of what is close to you, your partner, your family, your local church, the house of prayer, etc.** May God bring a conviction to our life with the privilege of serving the church. **We're not trying to be awesome, we just want to be where the Lord is.** May God give us a weight of profound revelation of the community that we are; which is a privilege and a high calling.

## VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Through this teaching, how did your understanding of what the church grow?**
2. **What danger is there in individualism?**
3. **What do you think is your role in the local church? how do you build it?**

### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Holy58 youth service this Wednesday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m.**
2. **Corporate Prayer is this Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m.**
3. **We have few spaces for the trip to Israel October 10-22, for more information you can talk to Beatriz Ramirez. This is the last week you can sign up.**
4. **The Passion For Jesus Conference and Leadership Summit is September 28-30. Register today at [www.nhop.la](http://www.nhop.la)**