



# We Are the House of God

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*(John 17)*

- **STORY:** Buying our first house

# ◆ The History of the House of God

## God's house is His dwelling place - *(A place for the Ark of God)*

- Moses builds God a Tabernacle — (Exodus 25:8) — ...let them make me a *sanctuary*, that I may dwell in their midst.
- Solomon builds God a Temple — (2 Chronicles 2:5–6) — The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. <sup>6</sup>But who is able to build him a house, since heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him?

## God has promised to build His house

David desired to build God a house (a man after God's own heart)

- God's covenant with David — (1 Chronicles 17:10–14) — ... I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that *the Lord will build you a house*.  
<sup>11</sup>When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup>*He shall build a house for me*, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup>I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, <sup>14</sup>but *I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever*, and his throne shall be established forever.' ”

## God's house is His family (the Church)

- (1 Corinthians 3:16) — Do you not know that you are *God's temple* and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
- (Ephesians 2:19–21) — 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.
- (1 Peter 2:5) — you yourselves *like living stones are being built* up as a *spiritual house*, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

● **NOTE: We are God's household** — God consistently uses the language of family to describe His people (His Church)



# ◆ Where do families come from?

## Family begins with a Covenant

- The marriage covenant — (Genesis 2:24) — Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- God's covenant with man — Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus
- The New Covenant — (Jeremiah 31:31–33) — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make *a new covenant* with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup>not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup>For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: *I will put my law within them*, and *I will write it on their hearts*. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

### ● NOTE: The centrality of God's law — (tabernacle & temple)

In the New Covenant, God's puts His law and His presence in the hearts of His people.

## Family grows by blood and adoption

- God has adopted us into His family by His blood — (Ephesians 1:5-7) — In love he predestined us for *adoption* to himself as sons through Jesus Christ... <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption *through his blood*, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...
- (Romans 8:15) — For you did not receive the *spirit of slavery* to fall back into fear, but you have received the *Spirit of adoption* as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

### ● NOTE: By the blood of Christ — We have been redeemed out of the *house of slavery*, and we have been adopted into the *House of God*.



# **The Five Pillars of the House of God**

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*(John 17) - The things that hold the house together*

**Jesus prayer right before  
He is to be crucified.**

## ◆ #1 - The Glory of God

(Verse 1-5) — When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; *glorify* your Son that the Son may *glorify* you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I *glorified* you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, *glorify* me in your own presence with the *glory* that I had with you before the world existed.

### What is God’s glory?

- God’s glory is His greatness, His awesomeness, His beauty and splendor and majesty. When we glorify God, we acknowledge and proclaim His awesomeness, His beauty, splendor, and majesty. It means we make a *big deal* about God. That’s what it means to glorify Him. He is a big deal, so we seek to live our lives in such a way that all that we are and do and pursue makes a big deal of God.

### ◆ What does the Bible say about God’s glory and His House

- Moses and the Tabernacle — (Exodus 40:34–35) — Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and *the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle*. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the *glory* of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
- Solomon and the Temple — (2 Chronicles 7:1–3) — As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and *the glory of the Lord filled the temple*. <sup>2</sup>And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the *glory* of the Lord filled the Lord’s house. <sup>3</sup>When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the *glory* of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
- (1 Corinthians 10:31) — So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all *to the glory of God*.... (Matthew 5:16) — ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and *give glory to your Father* who is in heaven.

**NOTE:** God’s house is a place for Him to display His glory

● **STORY:** Moses and God’s glory

## ◆ #2 - The Name of God

(Verse 6) — I have manifested *your name* to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word...

(Verse 11-12) — ...Holy Father, keep them in *your name*, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I kept them in *your name*, which you have given me...

### What is God's name?

God's name is WHO He is - His character... Throughout scripture God is referred to by different names when He is displaying a different aspect of His character.

- Jehovah Jireh - The Lord Will provide
- Jehovah Rapha - The Lord Who Heals
- Jehovah Nissi - The Lord Our Banner
- Jehovah Shalom - The Lord Our Peace

## ◆ What does the Bible say about God's name and His people?

### WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN HIS NAME

- (1 John 3:1) — See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called *children of God*...
- (John 1:12) — But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become *children of God*...
- (Galatians 3:26) — for in Christ Jesus you are all *sons of God*, through faith.

### HIS NAME GIVES US PRIVILEGES - (as a member of the family)

- Access through prayer — (John 14:13) — Whatever you *ask in my name*, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- Power — (Acts 3:6) — But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. *In the name of Jesus* Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"
- Protection & Safety — (Proverbs 18:10) — The *name of the Lord* is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

● **STORY:** Dad driving during the storm

## ◆ #3 - The Word of God

(Verse 14-19) — I have given them *your word*, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup>I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup>*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.* <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sake I *consecrate* myself, that they also may be *sanctified in truth*.

### We are sanctified by the Word

- *Sanctify* means — to be separated from common life or use and dedicated to the service or worship of God — [ To be set apart for God's Kingdom and Kingdom purposes — separated from the world and worldly purpose ]

### God's Word is the key to keeping us from the world - (*in, not of*)

- It will keep us at odds with the world — (Vs 14) - I have given them your word, and *the world has hated them* because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- It will protect us from the enemy — (Vs 15) - I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one
- It is our lifeline to the Kingdom — (Vs 17) - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth

## ◆ What does the Bible say about God's Word and His House?

### GOD'S PLAN FOR MOSES AND THE TABERNACLE

- God's detailed plan and pattern for the tabernacle are found in Exodus 25-40 (12 chapters of which are filled with the specific details of God's plan)
- (Exodus 39:43) — And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; *as the Lord had commanded*, so had they done it...

### GOD'S PLAN FOR SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE

- (1 Chronicles 28:11–13) — Then David gave Solomon his son *the plan* of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; <sup>12</sup>and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the Lord, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated



gifts; <sup>13</sup>for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the Lord; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the Lord... (Vs 19) — “All this he made clear to me *in writing from the hand of the Lord*, all the work to be done *according to the plan*.”

## GOD'S WORD AND HIS CHURCH

- (Hebrews 1:1–2) — Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days *he has spoken to us by his Son*...
  - (2 Timothy 3:16–17) — All *Scripture* is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
  - (Ephesians 2:19–21) — 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.
- **NOTE:** The Word of God separates us from the world and provides the foundation for our unity in Christ. When the Word of God is being ignored or circumvented, it brings disunity, discord, and division. It grieves the Holy Spirit and will eventually bring the discipline (or judgement) of God.

## ◆ #4 - The Love of God

(Verse 20–23) — “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so *that the world may believe that you have sent me*. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become *perfectly one*, so *that the world may know that you sent me* and *loved* them even as you *loved* me... (Verse 26) — I have made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the *love* with which you have *loved* me may be in them, and I in them.

### We are united in the Love of God (as a result of the Word of God)

- (Vs 20) - “those who will believe in me *through their word*” — This is the word of the apostles (from Jesus, through the apostles).
- “Those who believe” — this is us, the Church
- (Vs 23) - ...that they may become *perfectly one*, so that the world may know that you sent me and *loved* them even as you *loved* me.
- (Verse 26) — I have made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the *love* with which you have *loved* me may be in them, and I in them.
- **NOTE:** This unity, built on the Word of God will proclaim the Love of God to the world
- **NOTE:** The model of our unity is the Father and the Son (and the Spirit)
- **NOTE:** Our oneness (unity) is dependent upon the Word of God and the Love of God. When we are united in this way, the world will know that we are from God. When the church operates contrary to the Word of God and/or the love of God, we hinder our mission.

### ◆ What does the Bible say about God’s Love and His Church?

- (John 13:34–35) — A new *commandment* I give to you, that you *love one another*: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- (1 John 3:14) — We know that we have passed from death into life, because *we love* the brothers.

## ◆ #5 - The Joy of God

(Verse 13) — But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have *my joy fulfilled* in themselves.

**NOTE:** God desires us to have fullness of joy — His joy!

How do we have that joy? By living according to what Jesus is praying for in this passage.

This only happens...

When our priority and passion is the glory of God

When our lives exalt the name of God

When we are wholly surrendered to the Word of God

And when we walk in the love of God

Then the world will know that we are His.

And we will know the joy of God

And what it truly means to be the House of God.

## Closing

In this prayer, we see a small glimpse into the beauty of the relationship between the Father and the Son (and the Holy Spirit). Jesus desires us to walk in this kind of relationship with each other.

The Church is God's House — His Family.

And just like all families, we each have a part to play.

We'll never know the unity and joy that God desires for us until God's passion becomes our passion. *God's passion is for His House.*

### ● **STORY:** The rebuilding of God's House

(Haggai 1:3–9) —

Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, <sup>4</sup>“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ...

<sup>7</sup>“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. <sup>8</sup>Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

- **NOTE:** Don't let the struggles of being a family, keep you from fulfilling the part God has for you in building His House.

## Psalm 133 (ESV)

A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID.

- 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers dwell in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down on the collar of his robes!
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion!  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
life forevermore.