



ONE CHURCH, SIX EXPRESSIONS

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The Greek word for “church” is *ecclesia*. *Ecclesia* is a church or a company of people who are called out to achieve specific purposes in the earth.



Ecclesia is a company of people who are called out to achieve specific purposes in the earth. Another word for *ecclesia* is church.

A church is a company of people that has six different expressions of the Kingdom. *Ecclesia* is an overarching kind of name from a wide variety of identities. Each identity or expression has a defined purpose requiring a specific leadership, a specific training and resources, so that each identity requires its own time slot in the calendar of events that engage the church annually. We are not saying that we are one type of church on this day and then we are another type of church on that day.



The *ecclesia*/church is made up of people who will show forth six different expressions of the Kingdom.

I believe every church needs to have all of these expressions within, so that we are all growing up into the fullness of Christ. The members of the church can then be sent out to do particular things – hold an evangelistic event, or to church-plant, so that the church can grow its new members into the fullness of Jesus and the abundance of the Kingdom.



Each expression or identity requires a specific leadership, training and resources.

The Kingdom is a huge place, and the church has to grow to fit that space so that the Kingdom is bigger than the world. When the church grows into its Kingdom anointing, then it comes into a place where it can actually take on the world at its own game. Every member needs to connect with each aspect of the church's identity so that they can encounter God in all things Kingdom and have ongoing experiences with the Lord Jesus, and with the Holy Spirit.

CHURCH MENTIONED BY JESUS TWO TIMES

It is interesting to me that Jesus mentioned church on only two occasions for a total of three times in the Gospels. He mentioned the Kingdom 108 times. The first time He mentioned church was in Matthew 16:18-19, and that is in the context of warfare. This is when He asked the disciples, "Who do *people* say that I am?" Then He asked a more pointed question, "Who do *you* say that I am?" Peter blurts out in the way that only Peter can, "You are Christ, the Son of the Living God!" Jesus grins at him and says, "And you are Peter. You are a rock, and on this rock I will build My church." He goes on to talk about warfare and binding and loosing and that hell will not be able to prevail against the church. That is His first mention of church.

The second one is Matthew 18:15-17 and it is in the context of relationships. He says, "If you are struggling relationally and you have aught against someone, then go and see him alone. If he does not receive you, go and tell it to the church." That might not be the *whole* church community, but it might be the two-people groups that you both belong to in that congregation. *Go tell it to the church.* He is talking about church in the context of relationships and how to get through our difficulties together because He wants to develop a *family base* for His power.

The church, really, is a new society on earth knit together by relationships and the Presence of God. We are not united in our dogma; we are united in the Presence of God and in the way that God wants us to relate to each other.



The church is knit together through healthy relationships and the Presence of God.

Apostles, interestingly enough, mention the church 25 times in the context of being part of the Kingdom, which they mention 63 times. So you understand that *Kingdom is more important than church, and Kingdom cannot come through church.*

THE REINVENTION OF AGLOW

If you build church without any context of Kingdom, you cannot just bolt the Kingdom on the side. We are going to have to reinvent ourselves. I think that we are at that place of reinvention right now. We are going to see lots of prototype churches emerging in the earth and Aglow is a prototype church in the making, in terms of what we are doing in our Kingdom expression throughout the earth because church can only come through Kingdom.



Church can only come forth out of the Kingdom.
Kingdom does not come forth out of the church.

God overlays Kingdom and then builds the church through it, so that we have this expression of the culture of Heaven coming down into the world around us. As this occurs we are saying in our relationships in our ministry what we represent in the earth is this: *on earth as it is in Heaven*. For that to happen, we need to understand the culture of the Kingdom, because the Kingdom is our main intention.



We must understand the culture of the Kingdom
because the Kingdom is our main intention.

The Kingdom demonstrations of Jesus in the Gospels really become the compelling nature of the early church in the book of Acts. To make Jesus fully known by empowering people to connect with the Kingdom within, which is the rule of Christ on earth, there are six different expressions of that Kingdom.

FIRST EXPRESSION: THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH - RELATIONAL

The first one is the Household of Faith. Let me read some verses that I wrote down:

Galatians 6:10 - *While we have opportunity, let us do good to all people regardless of who they are, but especially the household of faith.*

Ephesians 2:19-20 - *You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and they are of God's household having been built on the foundations of apostles and prophets, Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Hebrews 3:6 - *Christ was a faithful Son over His house whose house we are.*

1 Peter 2:5 - *You, also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood.*



One identity of the Church is being the Household of God where
we are a family where our unity brings authority over the enemy.

The church is the household of God. We are a family together. Relationships are a critical part of New Testament training and development to maintain the unity that provokes our authority over the enemy. It is good that brothers and sisters can fight together against the enemy. It is good that we can

come together for the purpose of expressing the Goodness of God all over the earth, and particularly in the locality where we live.

How many churches really give comprehensive training in relationships so that we know how to live with each other, how to deal with difficulties, how to move forward together when we are under stress, when we are under pressure, how do we stay friends when the enemy is actively attacking us and causing stress and so on? How do we empower the whole idea of one heart, one mind, one voice, one spirit so that we are all together in everything?



The intention of the Apostolic is to bring us to a place of maturity in Christ that causes us to maintain our relationships even when we may not agree.

I love the apostolic language in the Bible saying words like *Dear Brother, Beloved Children, My Dear Child*, and so on. The intention of the apostolic is to bring us to a place where we are no longer just children that are fluctuating in our immaturity according to what is happening against us like we saw in the skit, but we actually become a mature man.

You do not become a mature man by listening to good teaching. You become a mature person by putting that teaching into practice in the relationships around you because all of the teachings of Christ are relational. It is about relationship with Him and relationship with one another.

1 Corinthians 3:1-8 talks about the Corinthian church that had been given over to gossip, back-biting, and disunity. It is fascinating to me that we have those elements of the flesh in relationships in the very midst of our congregations, and then think we can come along on Sunday morning and worship God as though nothing is happening. It is kind of strange.

There is a Grace that allows us to step into worship. There is another Grace that says, *before you do that, you go and put things right*.

SECOND EXPRESSION: THE ARMY OF THE LORD – WARRIORS AND CHAMPIONS

Second expression of church, then, is the Army of the Lord.

II Timothy 2:3-4 - *Endure hardness with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life so that he may please the One who chose him to be a soldier.*

I Timothy 6:12 (this is my baptismal verse) - *Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold of the eternal life to which you were called.*



A second identity of the Church is being the Army of the Lord where we are called to warfare.

There is a call to fight on every single one of us, and there are so many dimensions of warfare where we can become involved locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Philippians 2:25 Paul says - *I sent you Epaphroditus, my fellow brother, and my fellow soldier...*

II Corinthians 10:4 - *The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*

II Corinthians 6:7 talks about - *the weapons of righteousness...*

Can you believe that? That just being right with God is a weapon in itself. Being right with God constantly and keeping yourself walking in that righteousness is a weapon. We are learning to abide in who Christ is in us. His Righteousness lives in us, and abiding in that is powerful. Abiding is a weapon because that is what a carrier of Presence does. They stay, they dwell, they remain in the presence of God and one of the biggest delights and joys of our life is just to learn to stay in Jesus. Every day practice staying; practice abiding; practice dwelling; practice remaining.



Abiding in Righteousness is a weapon that is powerful to pull down strongholds and enables us to take territory.

Romans 13:12 - *The night is almost gone, the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of Light.*

A DISCIPLINED ARMY

This whole sense of the church as a disciplined army that can take territory is a major part of our warfare against the enemy. Every one of us is called to fight in some way, shape, or form. We must teach people defensive warfare, how to keep themselves free of enemy attack, and train them in the Majesty of God. Our people must know how to express favor in warfare so they can take ground in their own circumstances.

How many of us know that God is not really intent on rescuing us? This is not a rescue operation. He does not want to rescue us; He wants to teach us how to stand. He wants to teach us how to press in. He wants to teach us how to take territory. The church is not a rescue operation. It is a training ground, a breeding ground, for soldiers and warriors, equipping the people to occupy that ground locally, understanding how to use Goodness to overcome evil and how to combat the devastation and the ruin of cities and generations, which is part of Jesus' own personal mission statement which he exemplified in Isaiah 61:1-7. In verse 4 He says, *Those people have been set free, they will actually go and repair the ruined cities and devastations of generations.*



The church is not a rescue operation, it is a training ground to raise up soldiers and warriors that know how to overcome evil with Goodness, know how to take territory and keep it, and how to repair the ruin and devastation caused through the generations.

Ephesians 6:10-20 talks about how we fight against rulers and powers, against world forces of darkness, and against spiritual forces of wickedness.

We just did a couple of conferences this year called *The Overcoming Life*, Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1 was defensive warfare; Part 2 was how to take ground and how to occupy that ground, and how to be defensive in battle. We need to know how God will be with us in the day of trouble. We need to know who God is for us when the enemy comes attacking. We need to know how to overcome, how to learn to be victorious, how to learn to become an overcomer, and how to learn to become to be more than a conqueror.



God is training us to stay in victory, to take ground and to occupy that ground.

These are the three levels of power that God is training us in, in the whole area of being the Army of the Lord. Training people to stand firm – three levels of anointing in battles I have just said.

- ☑ **Standing in victory**, not being moved
- ☑ **Becoming an overcomer**, and taking ground
- ☑ **Being more than a conqueror**, one who occupies in the name of the Lord

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

In that context of being the Army of the Lord, the church is a House of Prayer for all nations. I love putting the House of Prayer in a family context, but I also really believe strongly that it belongs in a warrior context - it belongs as part of the context for the Army of the Lord. We are a House of Prayer for all nations because we believe prayer is a weapon. We believe rest and peace is a weapon. We believe the Fruits of the Spirit are all weapons because they are all part of the Presence of God.



The Army of the Lord is a House of Prayer for all nations who understand that prayer is a weapon of warfare that comes out of the place of Grace.

- » We pray in alignment with Kingdom purposes.
- » We pray in alignment with God's intentionality for a particular city, for a locality always praying in line for evangelism. As Paul says in Ephesians 6, *pray for me that an effective door will be opened because I am being opposed.*
- » We pray in alignment with peace - which is why we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, but also why we are praying for peace right now in the Arab world, why we are praying for peace everywhere when there is a trouble spot, everywhere where people are being killed or enslaved, we are praying in those places for the Presence of God to come. Part of that praying is praying down the Grace of God.

If it is the Goodness and the Kindness of God that leads us to repent, then praying about Goodness and Kindness and Grace is a huge part of what we are doing in terms of battling the enemy.

I remember someone in an organization coming to me and saying that they were going to go down into San Francisco and go down into the area where the gay community lives and pray down the judgment of God, will you come with us? I said, *I love you guys, but honestly, I would rather slit my wrists with a blunt rusty knife than do that.*

Nothing is going to happen when you pray for judgment to come. All you are going to do is to make that community even more intractable to the Gospel. I said to them, *Tell me when you are going down, and I will go down and I will stand on the opposite corner and I will pray down the Grace of God.*

The question you have to ask in these places is how much of the Grace of God needs to fall on this community so that it can see the Goodness of God and they can see the Kindness of God and they can come to a place of repentance. No one gets saved through judgment. People get saved because they taste and see that God is good. My question always is, *How much Grace does this person need in order to get an upgrade in Jesus? How much Grace does this community need in order for them to respond to the Gospel?* We pray down the Grace of God.



Aglow is rich in Grace and is able to call down Grace in every community of the world bringing opportunity for mass revival.

The Bible talks about the riches of His Grace. So what if Aglow is the wealthiest community in the world when it comes to Grace? What if we are so wealthy in Grace that the Presence of God can come down into any place that we speak it into? The Bible talks about how we reign in life through Grace; we rule and we reign in Grace. Grace is the empowering Presence of God. We reign in life, we rule through Grace so that we can bring Grace to bare as an operational strategy and tactic against the enemy because he is incapable of resisting the Grace of God. If we become rich in Grace, and if we are kingly in Grace, if we are ruling in Grace, the Grace of Jesus is utterly irresistible. No one can stand against it, not even you. You are proof that no one can stand against it.



Nothing can stand against the Grace of God.

Here is the thing, you cannot just teach about warfare, you have to equip people to actually be able to do it. We need to move away from this pulpit fascination with truth and actually take it out into people's lives and process or process the truth so that our people can actually learn how to become what we are teaching them. Truth is not just what you have heard; it is what you have experienced. It is what you have encountered. It is what has changed you personally and every one of us has to give evidence of our transformation so that we all know that we really are growing up into all things.



Truth comes through experience, not by hearing only.

It is about not just teaching it because it is not taught until it has been caught. It is about discipline, mentoring, and monitoring the level of fitness and capacity to fight successfully. God commits us to levels of warfare so that He can grow us up from being good soldiers to being warriors and champions and *GamehChangers*.

In churches that are mostly pastoral, people are not trained to submit to God so that they can resist the enemy. That is James 4:7. We are not trained in Lordship. We can get people healed who have been wounded by the devil, but we do not train people to inflict damage on the demonic. That really has to change around the world. It is changing everywhere. The Bible gives us permission. If you read Luke 11:20-26, it gives us permission to bind the strong man and loot his goods. Sounds like fun.

THIRD EXPRESSION: THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

John 3:29 - *He who has the bride is the Bridegroom; but the friend of the Bridegroom who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the Bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.*



The Church is the Bride of Christ.

That is John the Baptist speaking. I often think one of the joys of the prophetic ministry is that we are friends of the Bridegroom. I think one of the key elements of the prophetic gift is that we are preparing people to be the lovers of God and to be the Beloved of God. Part of the prophetic gift is beautifying the church. Part of teaching, pastoring, part of all our ministry is to raise one another up to understand that we are the Beloved of God, that we are wonderfully loved by God, and He is preparing each of us, male and female, to be a Bride. There is an intimacy in relationship with God that needs to be developed in the body of Christ.



Part of our equipping in Aglow is to understand that we are the Bride of Christ who speaks out of a place of intimacy with God.

True New Testament prophets are the friends of the Bridegroom. I love the fact that we are all being prepared for something so majestic, so wonderful, so intimate with God, and that bridal preparation is in our lives right now. It is in every situation we are facing. The Lord is teaching us how to speak as one who is in intimate relationship with Him. We have a different voice in the earth. We have a different voice in our congregations. It is the voice of one who is in intimate affection with the Father, with the Lord Jesus.

I think it is important for us to see bridal worship and intercession. It is time for us to stop praying like a widow and start like a bride. Pray like one who is beloved. Pray like one who knows that she has incredible favor with God, who knows that because I am here I have the favor of God. Stuff happens when I pray because I am not married to the Lord yet, so technically it means I am His girlfriend and I can get stuff out of Jesus because I am the Beloved.

There is a level of favor that comes to us in bridal intercession. I do believe personally and prophetically that the days of wailing and crying and grieving and sorrowing in intercession are coming to an end and there is a new sound in intercession being released and it is a sound of joyful prayer. It is a sound of laughter on the battlefield. It is a sound of people happy in their favor with God. It is the sound of people who are loving their life and who love bringing down the favor of God into this situation and that situation because we are carriers of Presence. We are carriers of the favor of God and I think that should be a joyful thing.



There is a new sound in intercession that is being released, and it is the sound of joyful prayer, a sound of laughter on the battlefield that comes from a people who know they are highly favored and loved. It comes out of the relationship of the Bride and the Bridegroom.

Here is the thing, being the bride is a different level of relationship. How many of us really know that a multifaceted God is not really happy with a single-faceted, one-dimensional relationship? A multi-dimensional God can never be happy with a single-dimensional, one-dimensional relationship. He wants us to be children. He wants us to become mature people. He wants us to become sons and daughters. He wants us to become a bride. He wants us to be friends and brothers. There is a multi-dimensional relationship that we get to express with God. It is so important that we develop bridal intimacy because it brings us into a level of intimate connection with God that no other relationship does. The true beloved; the one that Jesus has been seeking – we are it.



Developing bridal intimacy brings us into a connection with God that no other relationship has.

It is time, it is time that we put on that expression, that lifestyle, where we have encounters in those areas and we have experiences with God in terms of incredible intimate affection that exists between God and His people. Then He in that place wants to grant us things. He wants to give us things. Any woman who is loved by a man knows that she can get anything out of the old boy.



As leaders, we need to be aware that we are ones who help make the Bride aware of who she really is.

Here is the thing I see though, I do believe that church leaders need to see themselves as the attendants of the bride, making her favor possible. It is so important that we are always telling our people *you are beautiful*. So here it goes, fasten your seatbelts, and put your tray in the upright position. Are you ready? *You are so beautiful to the Lord. Now I mean seriously, seriously beautiful to the Lord.*

You understand that when He looks at you, He looks at you through the eyes of Jesus so He is not at all concerned about your struggle or your behavior. He has a vision of you that is beyond even those things. That is where we are going to understand the “I can see myself in the context of how God sees me.” That is what fellowship is in the Kingdom.

Church leaders are making that level of favor possible and causing the bride to know the pleasure of God rejoicing over her according to Isaiah 62:5.

In Ephesians 5, let me read this; I cannot read it all because it is a long passage, but it is all about “wives be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is head for the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. As the church is subject to Christ so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also

loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her having cleansed her by the washing of water by the Word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory.”



The Glory of God must be seen in the people of God.

It is so important for the world to see the Glory of God in the people of God. I know that the Bible says that God will not give His glory to another, but you are not another. You are the Household of Faith. You are the people of God. You are the body of Christ. You are the bride of Christ. You are not another. It is so important, therefore, that the glory of God be seen in the beloved of God, that we take that glory out with us into all of our occupations, into our neighborhoods, into our cities and our localities. People will understand what God is really like by how we really actually connect with them. The people in the world will know, *these are the people of God who are turning the world upside down and now they have come here, too.*

This is an amazing mystery to me that must be revealed in the church. This visible preparation of beauty – the bride is sanctified, it is cleansed, it is washed with the Word. It is a glorious people without spot or wrinkle. It is holy and blameless. How can we do that as a church? How can we present the church without spot or wrinkle? How can we present a church that is holy and blameless? How can we do that if we have a legalistic mindset and practice that continually talks from a sin-conscience Gospel? How can we do that?

This is where I believe Aglow is to be a prototype. God is not sin-conscience because He has dealt with sin once and for all in Jesus. Now we are not sinners. We are people who used to be sinners, but now we are learning how to become saints. Our whole mindset, our whole perspective, our whole language is changing and a part of that change is that we understand that our truest identity is as a son and a daughter of God, and also as the bride of Christ, and also as the body of Christ, and also as the Army of the Lord, and also as the Household of Faith. We have a lot of stuff to live up to.



Aglow is a visible representation on earth of everything God is.

Fortunately, we have the Holy Spirit who is a genius at all of this stuff.

FOURTH EXPRESSION: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Romans 12:4-8 teaches about gifts and how they function. It talks about gifts that differ according to the Grace given. It talks about gifts that differ according to the mountain of faith. He tells us how we

practice those gifts as members of the body of Christ. I love it because it is like minimal instruction for maximum effort and impact.

The Holy Spirit is brilliant at taking these scriptures and making it so real and so powerful that if you were to teach on Romans 12:4-8, it probably would take you at least a day because there is so much in it that would explode outwards once you open that jar. It is like 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 – it teaches many members, one body, and it uses that expression three times in that passage. Other churches matter.



One Body, many expressions according to gifting. One Body in a community with different assignments and in unity.

There is only one church in your city. There is just one body of Christ in that city. Therefore, other churches matter and at some point in our cities, we have to deal with the fact that we are so divided, we cannot actually agree on what even is the Kingdom. Somewhere there is a move of God gathering space in Heaven that is coming into the earth that I believe will obliterate a lot of that nonsense. Walls will be torn down and we learn to become the body of Christ in a city – one church, one heart, one mind, one voice even though there will be different expressions of worship and practice and so on – one body.

No divisions in the Spirit. All members need one another in that locality. God places members according to His desire. Honor flows to every member and I love the fact that in the world, honor flows from the smallest up the greatest; but, the Kingdom is different. The Kingdom says that honor flows from the greatest down the smallest and back again so that every single member – member of the body – has honor applied to them. The same care for every member so there is no hierarchy in the body of Christ. The same care for every single person. God appoints in His body ministries and gifts that enable that body to come alive and be a true expression of what it is for Jesus to be walking around the earth in millions of people.



There is no hierarchy in the Body of Christ. From the greatest, to the least, back to the greatest, all have the same honor applied to them.

Ephesians 4:4-16 – same principles as in Corinth – one body, one Spirit, one Hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father, oneness, unity in that oneness.

A grace given according to the measure of Christ's gift. What is the gift of Christ? Himself. Grace given according to who Jesus is Himself. That is why it always makes me annoyed when people talk about extreme Grace. Is there any other kind? So what is it? You do not like extreme Grace, you like poverty

of Grace? You like minimal Grace? You like small amounts of Grace? You like one bite of Grace and not a whole meal of Grace? Seriously? If Grace is not amazing it is probably that your experience needs to be upgraded.

It talks about ascended lifestyles that require apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry, to build up the entire body so that we are an amazing expression of who Jesus is. We are not just *well this is what our church looks like*. It is way bigger than all of that. Until we all attain a unity of the faith. Do we have a unity of the faith in the earth? No – then we need apostles and prophets, we need the Holy Spirit, we need all the gifts of the Spirit, we need all the help we can get.

Until we come to a knowledge of the Son of God – that is a knowledge with experience, a knowledge where encounters are a part of our understanding. So we come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That is why you look around over this auditorium and you know there are unclaimed upgrades all over this room because God all the time is increasing us, wanting to increase us, and we are learning that the smallest blessing that you can have is a double portion. But, really, God wants to multiply you. He wants to multiply who you are. He wants to multiply things that are going on in your church so that we are no longer children that are immature that can be tossed to and fro by circumstances, but we are living a lifestyle of faith. We are growing up in faith, we are loving the truth, and every member is in place and working. You know who you are; you know what your identity is; you know what your calling is – welcome to the church!

The church is a body, that according to Ephesians 1:22-23, is a body that is living in fullness, fully subject to Jesus having the power and the authority over the enemy in this life. There is nothing that is more fun than casting out devils, bringing judgment on the enemy, because we are not fighting flesh and blood.

FIFTH EXPRESSION: A CITY SET ON A HILL

The fifth expression is the church is a City Set on a Hill.



The church is a visible body – a city set on a hill that is available to all who can see it.

Matthew 5:14 – Jesus said, *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before man in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

John 8:12 – Jesus said, *I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*

I once spent four months in England discipling a Satanist into the Kingdom. He had so many hang-ups because he had so many demons that it was impossible for him to hear the Gospel. So we had to keep getting demons, evicting lodgers, and moving in the Holy Spirit. This is the verse I stayed on line with through that whole time. "I am the Light of the world, he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Every time we met it was always about the Light of life. He knew the darkness; he did not know the Light. So I brought him to the Light, piece, by piece, by piece, by piece – encounter, encounter, encounter, encounter – until we got to a point where the Presence of the Holy Spirit was the dominant power in his life and then we could get everything delivered, and he could get saved.

We are walking in the Light; we are not walking in the darkness. The Light we have is powerful in every single area of life and existence.

John 12:35-36 – *While you have the Light, you walk in that Light, so that darkness will not over take you.*

This whole aspect of a city set on a hill – a church is a city set on a hill. It means that we are visible and if we are visible, we are available. It means we are visible in the dark, so that no matter what the enemy is doing in the darkness, people can look around and see a visible expression. That is one of the reasons initially why people started putting crosses on buildings – so that people who are in trouble could look around in their locality and see a cross and know they could go and get help there. Wish that were true today still.

Jesus talked about believing the power of Light and becoming sons of Light. It is so important, we do live in a dark world, but you have to believe in the power of the Light and that is what church is. We are a city set on a hill. We are visible. We are out there. Everyone can see us. We are not a refuge from the world, we are actually right in the midst of it saying, *hey we have just what you need*. It is a sadness to me, and I am sure to the Holy Spirit, that there are so many churches in cities that the people around them do not even know that they even exist except on a Sunday morning when they take all your parking places.

SIXTH EXPRESSION: THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD

I Corinthians 6:19-20 - *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom have from God and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.* That is in your individual, personal body, and in the corporate body that you belong to. *Do you not know that you are a temple?*

I think in many ways we have become too building oriented as church, so focused on getting people into a building that we have lost our consciousness of what that internal temple of God actually looks like. Before you invite them to church, you invite them into your life. You invite them into your heart. You open up the doors of your own personal temple, and you invite people in to see who God is for you. Your testimony is a part of that. The testimony of this is what it means to be a habitation of God. I think we have become so focused on property and buildings and bringing people into the building that we have lost sense of the fact that we are in ourselves a habitation of God. And, so because we

have this building consciousness now, we have this visitational relationship with God because we want God to come to our meetings rather than come to us.



We are a habitational temple of the Lord housing His very Presence.

We bring people to meetings rather than bringing them to Jesus. I am all in favor of bringing people into the church, but I do not regard the church as a building. I want to bring the church into our expression of family in the household of God. If people are in trouble, I want to bring them to the army of the Lord and say we will fight for you. If people really want to understand who they are and how much God wants to favor them and make their lives beautiful, I want them to connect with the body of Christ with the fact that we have intimate affection. Evangelism takes its place across the whole thread. If people need to get healed or they need a miracle, then come to the body because we do that stuff.



We bring people into our relationship with the Lord that is living and tangible, not into a building where we meet and they come to know the Lord by how we know Him.

I love the fact that there are some churches that I am working with who are so starting to understand the body of Christ that they are giving messages to people. They are saying, *if you have cancer and it is inoperable, the doctors cannot do anything, we can get you healed because cancer is one of our specialties. If you cannot conceive and you have tried everything, come to us because we have an anointing to empower you to reproduce.*

What are we saying? We can do this stuff. Come to the body of Christ, we can do that stuff, but our specialties are cancer and infertility. I love that. And I am sure their specialties will grow. But right now they have a hatred of cancer and a hatred of infertility and so they are going after then as a household, as a body, and as an army.

I think we have lost consciousness in a sense of the church having a focus and acting as the temple of God. I am sure many Christians around the world are not really living with an up-to-date confession of *I am a temple of the Living God*. What that means is inside me there is a place of intimacy. God and I – we are cohabiting together. Jesus said, *If you abide in Us, My Father and I will come and We will make Our abode in you*. We are living with God as a dwelling place.

In that place is absolute Presence. It is the center of internal intimacy. There is a sacrifice of praise going on constantly. We are set apart. We are bought with a price. We can glorify God in our body – personally and corporately.

Ephesians 2:21-22 - *In whom the whole body being fitted together is growing up into a holy temple in the Lord.*

Here is my question – relationally, is that happening for us? In our relationships, are we starting to see each other as a temple of the Lord? Are we really empowering each other to upgrade your habitation with God? We do not want a visitational relationship with God. He is not our uncle. He is not going to come and visit a couple of times a year. When the Bible invites you to seek the Lord, it is not because He is lost. When the Bible invites you to seek the Lord, it is not that we should get down on knees and fast and pray and look for God. This means to seek the Lord for He is in here! Look for Him for goodness sake! Look for the Lord in your circumstances! That means actually stand there for a moment, become peaceful, get that whole worry thing outside of you, and then when you are peaceful, you will be able to see the Lord – He is right there. He is right there! There He is! You will know where the Lord is in your circumstances. Go and stand next to Him and pray.

In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. It is so important that relationally we connect in a way that means we are like living stones committed to each other in community, building the house of the Lord.

1 Peter 2:4-5 - Coming to Him as to a living stone, which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God; you also as living stones are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ Jesus.

You are a temple of the Lord. I think it is so important that the church has an expression of temple because, seriously, we need to do something more with our worship. Rather than just sing and enjoy it, we need to actually come to church ready to act like a temple, ready to come knowing the different levels of rejoicing and praise and worship, knowing that when we come, we need to experience God in the fullness of worship. I love those times when I have been in churches that so give themselves to worship. Sometimes it is all we do. My favorite meeting in a church in England was one called *Let's Waste the Whole Evening on God*. No one got ministered to; it was all vertical worship. It was all vertical, nothing horizontal. *If you have a need, we are not going to pray for you, we are just going to push you into the Presence of God and see what happens.*

I have been in those meetings where the Presence of God, when you practice the Presence of God like that - we had meetings in a church I was in in California called *Sacred Space* where for eight years every single Wednesday we met and all we did was worship God for 90 minutes. No one is going to pray for you. No one is going to have a word for you. Come in, it is all vertical, come in – get into the Presence of God and as you get lost in worship, see what you go out with. I have been in meetings in England and other countries around Europe where the worship was so thick, the Presence of God was so thick, that the last sound you heard was - before everyone fell out on the carpet, almost unconscious for half an hour because the weight of the Presence of God was so thick you could not stand up - the last sound you would hear was the sound of the drummer falling through his kit.

I have been in meetings where people got healed and no one prayed. I have been in meetings where poor people came in with no money off the street because the sound was so attractive and they got

lost in worship, woke up on the carpet with their pockets stuffed full of cash that nobody put there. I have been in meetings like that where the Presence of God was so powerful, miracles happened and nobody asked. Listen, the very least we want here is what they had at the dedication of the temple in the Old Testament, where the Presence of God came down and no one could stand on their feet.

At Pentecost, why does it say that Peter stood up to talk at Pentecost? It is because he was lying on the floor. When the wind blew in, it knocked everybody onto the floor and they got so filled with the Presence of God, they had to find a way to stand up and try and explain what on earth is happening right now. I would love those problems.

A church that is unconcerned about the temple will never be a habitation of God. That is why in all my dealings with Aglow it is always just a profound thing to me that worship is such a part of everything that we do. We love the Presence of God. We love hanging out with God. We love singing to Him; we love the fact that we can be in His Presence in worship. We can give ourselves. But I tell you, we are going to be a prototype even more in this area.



Something new is coming to Aglow through worship that the world will see.

The reason we need to establish church as a temple of the Living God is because when we act as a temple corporately, then God comes and dances amongst us. Things happen without us being conscious even of miracles happening, miracles happen. We want to be in a place where we are utterly vulnerable to the Presence of God. We are making moves in that direction, thinking about worship and what is the next level that we go to in our worshiping.

You cannot build a relational experience of intimacy in a predominantly functional environment. That is a bit of a mouthful – say it again – you cannot build a relational experience of intimacy in a predominantly functional environment.



A relational experience of intimacy can only be built in an atmosphere full of the Presence of God.

I know churches where people always arrive part way through the worship. Why? Because there is no real value for it. All they are coming for is the Word and any ministry. They do not realize that this is the lifestyle they have committed themselves to so that they are always going to be in need of ministry because they do not have this lifestyle of intimacy.

Carrying the Presence is not like carrying a handbag or a brief case. We have an internal responsibility to become worshipers. That means every single one of us has to think this year *what is my experience of worship like this year and what do I want for next year?* We think this so that we are growing in our worship. Corporately, just as individually, God is looking for people to grow by abiding with Him and the expression of abiding is thanksgiving and rejoicing – counting everything as joy, living in the joy of the Lord always. Experiencing that joy as power and as strength – counting everything as joy because we are a temple of God and in a temple that is what we do – we shout, we sing, we rejoice, we give thanks.



We have an internal responsibility to be worshippers because God must be exalted, and in that atmosphere that we create, we are changed.

The church, then, *ekklesia* has six identities.

- » Household of God
- » Army of the Lord
- » Bride of Christ
- » Body of Christ
- » City Set on a Hill
- » The Temple of God

All these expressions demand a high interaction and relationship with God so that the people of God and the people in the world understand who we are because they see this multidimensional expression of life. When the enemy sees that multidimensional expression of the Kingdom, he starts to get worried because he wants to keep you one-dimensional in your experience of God. A multidimensional church is more than a match for the power of the enemy in the earth. We have not yet seen the biggest movement of God in the earth. It will come when the church really expresses the full range of what the Kingdom actually looks like and what we can enjoy, encounter, and experience. Then I believe sinners will be transformed because we will see people in those cities with one heart, one mind, and one voice. We will not need apostolic networks because we will have apostolic cities. We will have apostolic communities and we will have leaders of cities and leaders of regions and we will see one body emerging across the nation.

It is not as impossible as it sounds. It just requires a move of God. God is the One who makes all things possible. It may take a 100 miracles to do it, yet God will give us 1,000 if 1,000 is required. This is something passionate in His heart. I am saying to us in Aglow, buckle up because we are going there. How we started as Aglow is not how we are going to finish. We got a great launch back there in '67. Amazing women. Amazing what has happened. But we are coming into the next level of our new reinvention and there is a launching part attach to that.



A church whose main focus is its own meetings will become irrelevant in today's society. Aglow will not be irrelevant in the end times. We will be setting the pace to show the world what God looks like.

All of us in Aglow, we are here for such a time as this. To see the biggest, widest, deepest, most powerful expression of church the world has ever seen. That is where we are going. A church with its main focus on its own gathering or meeting cannot see the Kingdom and will become irrelevant in modern society. The world would love to make the church irrelevant; Aglow is here to say *this is what church really looks like*. That is our goal; that is our passion. It is our intention; it is our focus. It is our purpose to express the fullness of Jesus in the earth and to understand that that fullness is going to take six dimensions of life in order to express it properly. That is who we are. We are being a prototype for that.

Let's pray.

Father I thank You. This is our day. This is our time. This is the day of the Lord for Aglow. This is the time of the Lord. We are in the timing of God right now in a way maybe never before in our history. Now we understand so much more of what Your intentions are, the kind intentions of Your will towards us. This is our day, this is our time, and we are rising up. We are a prototype. We are the first in a series. We are the first in a generation and there is a whole new spirit, there is a whole new anointing coming into Aglow and we are all being raised up. Our language is changing, our perceptions are changing, our mindset is changing, the way we walk, the way we do business in the Kingdom, everything is being upgraded. We are a house being renovated. We are a house being restored and rebuilt. We are a house being seriously upgraded in the things of the Kingdom.

It is a marvelous thing in our eyes – what God is doing in our midst right now. Every single one of us in Aglow, whether you are here right now today listening to this, watching this in a DVD or a live stream, whatever – every single one of us needs to be “all in”. All in, because God is doing a new thing.

Former things have passed away; new things are happening in our midst and we are grabbing hold of it because it is who God is and it is who we are in Him.

So, Father, I thank You for everything that You are doing amongst us. Thank You for upgrading our wisdom and our insight and our passion and our focus. Thank You more than anything that You are trusting us with a whole new level of Presence and we are going to be carriers of that Presence for Jesus' sake.

Amen