



Cornerstone
CHURCH

Follow Jesus with the Heart of the House

Building An Authentic Community

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After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. ⁶ I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. ⁹ For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building. ¹⁰ Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. ¹² Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. ¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. ¹⁶ Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ¹⁷ God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:5-17 NLT

An authentic church is not perfect—but it is *surrendered* to Jesus, *shaped* by His Word, *empowered* by prayer, and *filled* with His Spirit.

The Foundation of an Authentic Community

An Authentic Community is Founded on Jesus Christ Who is the Cornerstone

Jesus is the Cornerstone of An Authentic Church

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11 NLT

An Authentic Community Depends on the Word of God

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 NIV

An Authentic Community is a Place of Powerful Prayer

...“My house will be called a house of prayer”...

Matthew 21:13 NIV

And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:29-31 NLT

An Authentic Community Relies on the Power of the Holy Spirit to Build and to Bless

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 NIV

An Authentic Community is Made Up of Co-Workers Where Each Part Has a Role

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:15-16 NLT

Leaders in an Authentic Community Equip the Saints

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT

Building an Authentic Community Requires Active Members Who Make Intentional Effort

- **Motivate Others Towards The Things of God**

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

- **Use Their Gifts and Spiritual Gift to Help the Body Mature and Grow**

- **Give Generously with a Willing Heart**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-11 NIV

What are the Attributes of an Authentic Church?

- Unity in Diversity
- Love of Jesus and Love of People Everywhere
- Holiness, Accountability, and Integrity
- Care and Concern
- Obedience to Christ, Not Culture
- Humility and Servant Hearts

So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:42-45 NLT

Living Out an Authentic God-Honoring Community

- Keep Christ Central – Preach Jesus, Not Ourselves (2 Corinthians 4:5)
- Cultivate Genuine Fellowship – Move Beyond Surface Relationships to Carry One Another’s Burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Practice Accountability and Discipleship – Encourage and Correct One Another in Love (Hebrews 10:24–25)
- Prioritize Worship and Prayer – Seek God’s Presence Above All Else (Acts 4:31)
- Live on Mission – Share the Gospel in Word and Deed (Matthew 28:19–20)
- Always Honoring and Glorifying God (Colossians 3:17)

An authentic follower is not flawless—but is *growing* in Christ, *walking* in love, and *bearing fruit* that brings glory to God.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17 NIV