

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

(John 14:26, NKJV)

- God has placed us here on earth at this time with a purpose
- This purpose cannot be accomplished without Him

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” **(John 14:12, NKJV)**

“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:9–10, NKJV)**

The Holy Spirit searches for things that have never been seen or heard by human eyes and ears

The truth is we are hosting the very presence of God

- Not just for miracles
- He desires to bring the atmosphere of heaven through a person
- This forces a shift in the atmosphere over a home, business, or city
- By design heaven is to influence earth – Kingdom come!

Culture

Culture is basically the values, principles, beliefs, and attitudes that influence how life is lived in a specific location

The goal is that people should be able to taste and see what it would be like to have Heaven's culture shape the value system of the world we live in

- It seems like a huge task – and it is
- Start with our homes and the local church and go from there
- Everything in Heaven thrives because of the presence of God
- There is nothing in Heaven that exists apart from His presence

The measure of Heaven to earth is seen in the importance we place on His presence, His values, and His lifestyle

- A single act does not create a culture

The culture of heaven has got to become a preset in my life as it affects my worldview

- They have got to influence my immediate reaction to a problem or opportunity
- They must be more than concepts
- They must become burning convictions based upon what God says about life

Wisdom reveals the creative, excellent nature of God

“Blessed is the man who listens to me (wisdom), Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.”

(Proverbs 8:34, NKJV)

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—” **(1 Corinthians 1:30, NKJV)**

Wisdom is so much more than the ability to solve problems or make difficult decisions

- It is to influence culture through creative expression
- You could say that wisdom can manifest the culture or atmosphere and excellence of heaven

The effects wisdom has on integrity are seen and measured in our relationships, thoughts, ambitions, use of money, and even where we focus our eyes

- Wisdom builds with eternity in mind
- It is not enough to know wisdom we must apply it

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” **(James 1:22, NKJV)**

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” **(James 1:25, NKJV)**

Honor

It is hard to honor others if we do not view them properly

- We can not view others properly if we do not have a proper view of ourselves and where our identity lies
- A good place to start in ensuring we have the right identity is to begin with our self-perception as being free of sin
- It's hard to view others correctly if we don't see ourselves the way God does
- Seeing ourselves correctly changes how we view other believers

“knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.”

“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:9, 11, NKJV)

- Our confidence is in the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection
- Our death and new nature are to be one and the same
- They must be joined together as one thought
- If I died with Him then I must also live with Him, free of sin

His work on our behalf must become our new identity

– **Colossians 3:3**

It is then required of me to think of other believers in the same way He commanded me to think of myself

- This is what legitimizes a culture of honor in the family of God

Three things to consider

- We owe everyone honor because they were made in God's image
- We owe other people honor because of the gifts and abilities God gave them

For believers, there is an additional reason to give honor

- It is because we recognize the Spirit of God in and upon their lives
- We are to celebrate the anointing and the call of God

Every believer, not just pastors, and leaders are encouraged to be builders

“Therefore comfort each other and edify (build up) one another, just as you also are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NKJV)

We can build with an eternal effect through our understanding of God's word on who He made us to be and what is now possible as sons and daughters of God

If I begin to look at people the way that Jesus does, forgiven and righteous before Him, I suddenly realize that my view of what is possible in our lifetime changes dramatically

- I start to see the Bride of Christ as becoming more and more victorious and glorious
- Yes, we live in dark times that will become darker until the man of sin is revealed
- Yet, the Church should become brighter and brighter
- There is no contest between light and darkness

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16, NKJV)

*“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; **But the LORD** will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.”*

(Isaiah 60:1–2, NKJV)

- Note that the context is that as darkness increases light outshines the darkness – But the Lord!

We need to not be so concerned with Jesus coming to rescue us and more concerned with letting the glory of God manifest through us

“If I have hope for the individual, then I must nurture hope in my life for the family, church, or city.” – Bill Johnson

Confidence in the *power* of the Gospel is the result of a presence-based culture

- The reality of heaven must permeate our values, attitudes, and ambitions
- We must see light winning over darkness
- Not just in the future but also in the *now* in which we live

We have the responsibility of seeing the knowledge of Jesus being exalted over all the earth

One of the strongest ways of releasing the culture of Heaven into our world is through our relationships with one another

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35, NKJV)

- Love each other well!
- Not only does it bring strength to one another but it draws people to Christ
- How we love and serve each other has an impact on the culture around us
- Relationships done well also attract the presence of God

In attracting His presence we automatically attract the reality of His world into our environment

“If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together.” – African Proverb

Our successes in life, in many ways, depend on community

- People loving people
- If the vision for my life doesn't require others then my vision is too small
- Fellowship is the exchange of life, one member to another
- We need each other to become all that God intended

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

(1 Corinthians 12:26, NKJV)

The reality is that we cannot go where God wants us to go on our own

- There are times when we may not hear clearly from God on a matter concerning our life
- Sometimes God seems silent
- In these times He may want us to seek Him and rediscover a truth He has already spoken to us
- Other times we are to learn to receive from another member of the Body

He is emphasizing that we are members of one body

– 1 Corinthians 11-14

In **Acts 2:25-35** the Bible calls David a prophet

- He clearly spoke a prophecy concerning Jesus
- We can assume that he heard God brilliantly

Yet when he wanted direction on the dream that was in his heart, the building of the temple, God brought him to Nathan to receive instruction

- He turned his heart toward the gift that God had given him in a man
- This partnership in life and ministry was found in the prophet Nathan
- He was able to give David the word that he was looking for
- While it wasn't what he wanted, it was what he preferred, the will of God

You see this same pattern at work in the Book of Acts with the early church as well

It is important to find your people to do life with

- Joining with the wrong people can slow down your progress and growth
- You want to partner with those whose hearts burn like your heart for Jesus
- Others who are concerned with your life's purpose not just their own agenda
- Connect with those who are humble, loving, and servant-hearted
- It's in accountability that we find some of our greatest strength

Share our journey with RLC, LINC, and Radiant Network
Grand Rapids – TC – Ionia – Newaygo – Traverse City

- Relationships, prayer, agreement, Job, no Job, Money, no Money
- Turn the key and head north
- Buckley car accident on the move north
- Done with ministry but followed the advice of a mentor and my wife to Ionia
- Moved with God's provision from TC to Ionia – 4 Days
- Moved by faith and the power of agreement from Ionia to Newaygo – 4 Days
- Moved back to TC through the favor of God through partnership, honor, and submission

It is the heart of God to have a group of people discover what could be accomplished through the sometimes-painful process of doing life together with other empowered people

- There are conflicts
- There is pain
- And there are great letdowns and disappointments
- But there is also honor, growth, breakthrough, and unexpected blessings

When we choose to live this way we go further and, in doing so, leave something for the next generation

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1–3, NKJV)

- Unity begins with simple things like respecting one another and giving value and honor to one another
- I believe that God is looking for people that will get to know one another and give their lives for one another
- Partnership in life is essential
- Longevity is essential
- That’s where we learn to partner with one another’s dreams

Dreams are designed to be fulfilled

- Both Joseph and Pharaoh had dreams – **Genesis 37:5; 41:1**
- They had great destinies and God-given purpose
- Yet, neither could reach the fulfillment of their dream without the other
- It wasn’t until Joseph served the dream of an ungodly king that God fulfilled his own – amazing!
- It is a unique call to serve the dream of another
- It’s what friends, family, and partners do

When one gets a breakthrough it causes a domino effect in the dreams of each one of us

- One person's victory is the victory of us all

Thinking like members of a body will help give us the perspective of how God's Kingdom works and how it can be successfully released into our churches and our communities

Am I a Father or a Brother?

“So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.”

(1 Samuel 18:7, NKJV)

- Healthy fathers (*and mothers*) want their sons (*and daughters*) to do better than them
- To surpass them in every way
- They celebrate their successes
- Immature, insecure, brothers mock, resist, or try to discredit one who surpasses them
- Its called sibling rivalry
- We should work hard to see others with the same pleasure the Lord takes in them
- It's hard to be angry with a person, jealous, or even distrustful when you sense God's pleasure over them

Sensing God's heart for others keeps us from a typical religious response and brings us to a connection with His love for people

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

(Philippians 2:3, NKJV)