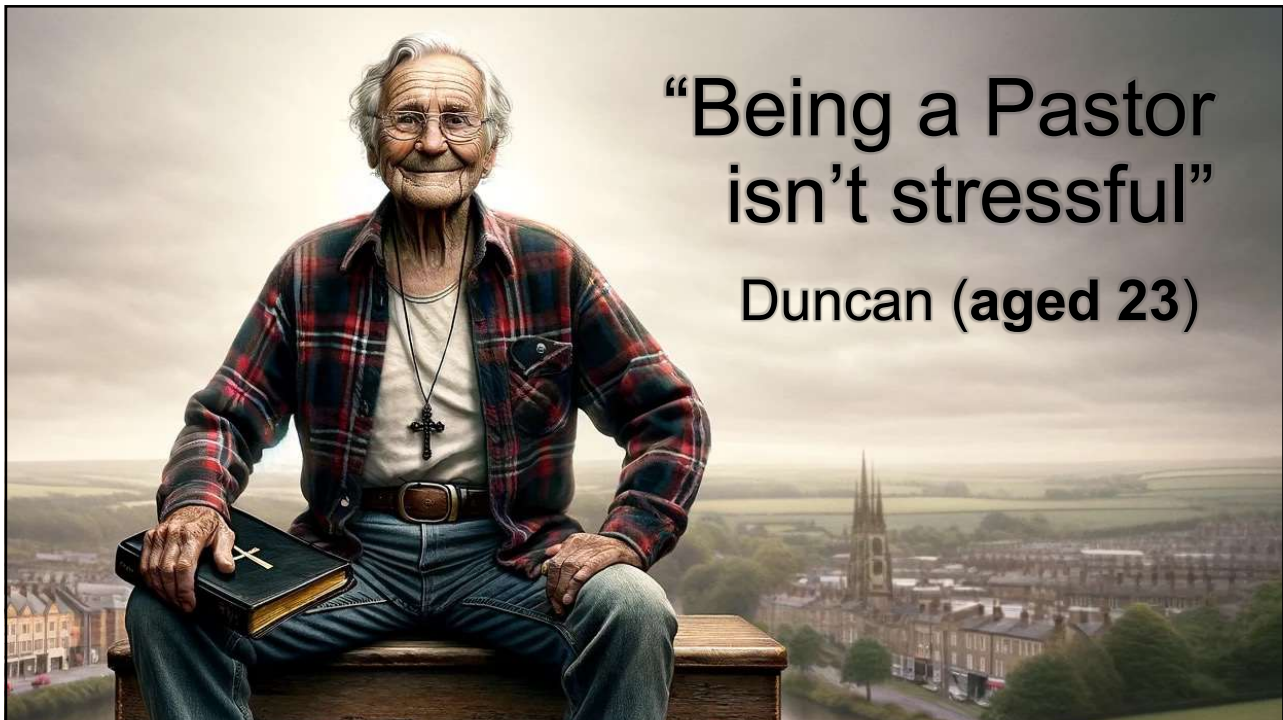


SPRING TERM 2024 – WEEK 11

BUILDING A COMMUNITY
THAT IS **HOLY** (3)



ACTS 5:12-21

¹² THE APOSTLES PERFORMED MANY SIGNS AND WONDERS AMONG THE PEOPLE. AND ALL THE BELIEVERS USED TO MEET TOGETHER IN SOLOMON'S COLONNADE. ¹³ NO ONE ELSE DARED JOIN THEM, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE PEOPLE.

¹⁴ NEVERTHELESS, MORE AND MORE MEN AND WOMEN BELIEVED IN THE LORD AND WERE ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER.

¹⁵ AS A RESULT, PEOPLE BROUGHT THOSE WHO WERE ILL INTO THE STREETS AND LAID THEM ON BEDS AND MATS SO THAT AT LEAST PETER'S SHADOW MIGHT FALL ON SOME OF THEM AS HE PASSED BY. ¹⁶ CROWDS GATHERED ALSO FROM THE TOWNS AROUND JERUSALEM, BRINGING THOSE WHO WERE ILL AND THOSE TORMENTED BY IMPURE SPIRITS, AND ALL OF THEM WERE HEALED.

¹⁷ THEN THE HIGH PRIEST AND ALL HIS ASSOCIATES, WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY OF THE SADDUCEES, WERE FILLED WITH JEALOUSY. ¹⁸ THEY ARRESTED THE APOSTLES AND PUT THEM IN THE PUBLIC JAIL. ¹⁹ BUT DURING THE NIGHT AN ANGEL OF THE LORD OPENED THE DOORS OF THE JAIL AND BROUGHT THEM OUT. ²⁰ 'GO, STAND IN THE TEMPLE COURTS,' HE SAID, 'AND TELL THE PEOPLE ALL ABOUT THIS NEW LIFE.' ²¹ AT DAYBREAK THEY ENTERED THE TEMPLE COURTS, AS THEY HAD BEEN TOLD, AND BEGAN TO TEACH THE PEOPLE.

HOLINESS — EVEN WITH SUCH
CONSEQUENCES — IS MAGNETIC.
WHY?

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WHY?

BECAUSE HOLINESS IS IN FACT
CHRISTLIKENESS

- **JUSTIFICATION** — BEING PUT RIGHT (MADE
RIGHTEOUS) THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS

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- **SANCTIFICATION** – BEING MADE MORE LIKE JESUS DAY BY DAY

¹⁷ NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT, AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM. ¹⁸ AND WE ALL, WHO WITH UNVEILED FACES CONTEMPLATE THE LORD'S GLORY, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE WITH EVER-INCREASING GLORY, WHICH COMES FROM THE LORD, WHO IS THE SPIRIT.

2 CORINTHIANS 3

BEHAVE

BELIEVE

BELONG

BELONG

BELIEVE

BEHAVE

*JESUS IS RADICALLY INCLUSIVE AS HE WELCOMES
US INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, BUT HE LOVES US
TOO MUCH TO LEAVE US UNDISTURBED IN OUR SIN
AND UNCHANGED. HE CALLS US TO BE HOLY.
HOLINESS IS CHRISTLIKENESS.*

JOHN MCGINLEY

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW, P.126

¹ FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE, THEREFORE, AS DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN ² AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR US AS A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD.

³ BUT AMONG YOU THERE MUST NOT BE EVEN A HINT OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY, OR OF ANY KIND OF IMPURITY, OR OF GREED, BECAUSE THESE ARE IMPROPER FOR GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE. ⁴ NOR SHOULD THERE BE OBSCENITY, FOOLISH TALK OR COARSE JOKING, WHICH ARE OUT OF PLACE, BUT RATHER THANKSGIVING.

⁵ FOR OF THIS YOU CAN BE SURE: NO IMMORAL, IMPURE OR GREEDY PERSON — SUCH A PERSON IS AN IDOLATER — HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD. ⁶ LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS, FOR BECAUSE OF SUCH THINGS GOD'S WRATH COMES ON THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT.

⁷ THEREFORE DO NOT BE PARTNERS WITH THEM. EPHESIANS 5

¹⁸ FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY. ALL OTHER SINS A PERSON COMMITS ARE OUTSIDE THE BODY, BUT WHOEVER SINS SEXUALLY, SINS AGAINST THEIR OWN BODY. ¹⁹ DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS IN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; ²⁰ YOU WERE BOUGHT AT A PRICE. THEREFORE HONOUR GOD WITH YOUR BODIES.

1 CORINTHIANS 6

HOW TEMPTING IT FEELS TO WATER DOWN THE GOSPEL, TO MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE TO MODERN EARS, TO LOWER THE DEMANDS, TO REMOVE THE MORE CHALLENGING BITS. TO MAKE IT SUPERFICIALLY MORE ATTRACTIVE. DO ALL THIS AND SURELY THE CHURCH WILL GROW?

MARK PARSONS

THAT'S NOT THE LESSON OF THE EARLY CHURCH. THEY RUTHLESSLY PURSUED HOLINESS AND A DEVOTION TO FOLLOWING THEIR LORD COME WHAT MAY. AND THAT HOLINESS WAS SO TANGIBLE THAT IT SET THEM APART FROM THE WORLD AROUND THEM. AND EVEN THOUGH NO ONE DARED JOIN THEM, PEOPLE WERE STRANGELY DRAWN IN, AND THE CHURCH GREW

MAYBE HOLINESS IS THE MISSING KEY TO CHURCH GROWTH?

MARK PARSONS

THE EARLY CHURCH WAS STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT FROM THE CULTURE AROUND IT IN THIS WAY — THE PAGAN SOCIETY WAS STINGY WITH ITS MONEY AND PROMISCUOUS WITH ITS BODY. A PAGAN GAVE NOBODY THEIR MONEY AND PRACTICALLY EVERYBODY THEIR BODY. AND THE CHRISTIANS CAME ALONG AND GAVE PRACTICALLY NOBODY THEIR BODY AND GAVE PRACTICALLY EVERYBODY THEIR MONEY.

TIM KELLER

*REPENT, THEN, AND TURN TO GOD, SO THAT YOUR SINS
MAY BE WIPED OUT, THAT TIMES OF REFRESHING MAY
COME FROM THE LORD*

ACTS 3:19