

**Rev. Joe Humrichous (9/29-30/07)**

**“The Power of Praying Together”**  
(A practical theology of Corporate Prayer)

“Truly successful families and ministries eagerly meet with Jesus as a community”

Because Jesus said, **“Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”**

Rev. 3:20

- If I had it all to do over again:
- My story:
  1. Jesus is my Savior (what He did for us)
  2. Jesus is my Sanctification (what He does in us)
  3. Jesus is my Service (what He does through us)
  4. Jesus is my Shepherd (what He does with us)

Focusing the lens for healthy church and ongoing revival:

Key: Jesus Christ obviously present and actively in charge.

Theme: The active headship of Christ over His church.

“Is He Lord or merely a beloved symbol?” A.W. Tozer

Question:

1. Why should a church pray together?
2. Why should (I) be an intentional part of the prayer life of my church?

Answer:

1. Because of who Jesus is.
2. Because of who the church is.
3. Because of what prayer is.

## **“Who is Jesus?”**

- I. Jesus Christ obviously present and actively in charge is our paradigm for success. (Matt. 16, Mark 16:20, Acts 2, Rev. 1)
- II. Jesus Christ obviously present and actively in charge is our platform for conflict resolution. (Matt. 18, John 17, Rev. 1)
  - My biggest fear in ministry!
  - Note: Churches and homes split because they don't have a platform on which to resolve conflicts that everyone has agreed upon.
  - Someone's presence makes a difference.
  - Nothing happens without faith.

A model for our attitude in prayer.

1. Welcome His presence.
2. Ask Him to take charge.
3. Ask Him to change you.
4. Ask Him to bring you into harmony with the Father and with each other.

- III. Jesus Christ obviously present and actively in charge is our promise for life's ultimate fulfillment. (Rev. 2, 3) (Jesus at the table)  
“Guess who's coming to supper”
  - Formatting the Letters (Rev. 2, 3)
    1. “Let me introduce myself – here's who I am.”
    2. “Let me tell you what I know.”
    3. “Let me correct and instruct you—listen.”
    4. “Let me comfort and encourage you with hope.”
    5. “Oh, by the way—could we meet for supper. (Rev. 3:20)
  - Who is this dinner guest at the table?
    1. God's holy character
    2. God's omnisciently accurate evaluation of us
    3. God's all-wise solution
    4. God's promised blessing and reward

Note: At this point we have moved from Jesus Christ obviously present and actively in charge to praying with Jesus Christ obviously present and actively in charge.

Caution: Make sure we go all the way to Jesus. (No subtle substitutes)

Illustrated: (in Rev. 3: 14)

1. “No need” church (self-centered, without heart)
2. “Overwhelmed with need” church (without hope, problem-centered)
3. “Zealous” church (pray without rest, work-centered)
4. “Worshipping” church (pray with Christ, Christ-centered)

Thoughts to Ponder –

- Prayer will always be boring if it is only a monologue (develop a dialog)
- We pray best with our Bibles open.
- If done right we will be transformed in the place of prayer.

## **“Who is the Church?”**

- Ecclesia
- A working definition: The church is God’s New Community in whom He has chosen to dwell and through whom He has chosen to work.
- Bible history (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Israel)
- The birth of God’s new community. (Acts 2:37-47)
- The Creation of God’s habitation on earth through the Spirit. (Eph. 2:19-22)
- Pursuing the heart of Jesus as a group/community.
  1. They believed the same truth (doctrine).
  2. They shared the same love (fellowship).
  3. They embraced the same covenant (breaking of bread).
  4. They trusted the same source (prayer).
  5. They were committed to the same cause.

i.e. “To know Christ and make Him known.”

Note: Together they enjoyed purpose, power, purity, personnel, program.

- But something happened!-(Acts 4, 5)

Question: What is the fastest growing sin in the evangelical church (North America) that cooperates with society in helping to pave the way for the Antichrist?

Answer: individualism

Why is this sin so dangerous?

Illustration of individual Christianity vs. the group.

## **“What is Prayer”**

A working definition: “Prayer is the divine spinal cord of the relationship between Christ (the head) and the church (the body).

Illustrated: (Eph. 1:15-23, 4:13-16, 5:22, 23, Col. 2:6-12, 16-19)

Note:

Christ (Bridegroom) – the initiator

Church (Bride) - the responder