



## **“Go Deeper, Be Whole: God and Us”**

Greg Wendschlag      January 22, 2023

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***“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:17-19***

### **Gaining the fullness of God only happens together**

***“And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.” Eph. 1:22-23***

***“So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to **the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**” Eph. 4:11-13***

### **God’s desire for a people**

***The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Gen. 12:1-3***

“Abram” – Exalted father/“Abraham” – Exalted father of a vast multitude

***“Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matt. 16:16-18***

“Simon” – Listening/“Peter” - Rock

Acts 2 – Church is born on Pentecost: Feast of the Harvest

***“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God...” 1 Peter 2:9-10***

### **What would a church look like if it were whole?**

***The church is a group of people defined by their faith in and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.***  
Ekklesia – public assembly summoned by a herald; The people of God summoned by the Gospel proclaimed by Jesus.

The church is local and global: Jerusalem and the ends of the earth.  
The church enjoys true, devoted fellowship with each other.  
The church is open to everybody.

***“Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her” Eph. 5:25***

Does the Church know its identity?

1. Will my current lifestyle lead me to the fullness of God?
2. Am I devoted to the people of the church?
3. Do I need to reconcile with anyone in the church?
4. Am I open to anyone coming into the church?