

# 11. Be the Church

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## 11.1 Authority

The title of this chapter is “Be the Church.” Inside of that thought, consider this statement of Jesus – **“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you”** (John 20:21).

Every word of truth towards us in the gospel operates at two levels both at the same time. Every word operates at the personal level, inside of you. And every word operates at the level of that gathering together, the local Church with whom you participate. This is true of everything you have learned in this short text. You are filled with all the fulness of God, personally, yes, but even more, your togetherness with the brothers and sisters with whom you worship is also filled with all of God.

**Every Word Complete.** No word from God can be true in one of those places only; every word must be complete in you personally and every word must be complete in your gathering together with other believers in Jesus. It’s not 50-50; it’s all and all.

You will find, then, that the truths regarding your knowing Jesus as He IS, found in these final two chapters, are applied to their larger expression, your local Church. Nonetheless, these things are fully true of you as well, on a personal basis and all through your being, from the moment you asked Jesus to live inside your heart.

To BE the Church together, to be sent as Jesus was sent, begins with knowing the authority of Christ dwelling in your heart.

**Man over All.** As part of creating Adam in His likeness and as His image, the revelation of God to creation, God gave to Adam and to all mankind authority over all of creation, both heaven and earth.

**“You have... set him [mankind] over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under [man] (Hebrews 2:7-8).**

The writer of Hebrews then goes on to say that our authority over all is not visible to us, and therefore we see Jesus alone as our source and our life. To understand this authority, we must first understand something about God before looking at how Adam used his authority in the garden.

**Which River Flows.** The most terrible statement in the Bible is Paul’s claim that Adam was NOT deceived. But here is another statement of Paul’s that comes a close second. **The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable** (Romans 11:29).

Genesis 2 speaks of a river that went out from Eden to water the whole earth. Whatever the geographical meanings of that statement might have been, God also placed that statement as a metaphor for us to understand Adam’s place. Just as there are two trees, a tree of death and a tree of life, so there are two rivers, a river of death and a river of life. And humans possess the authority over which river flows out from themselves.

**Two Rivers.** Here is the river, or shall we say, flood of death hitting creation through the authority of God given to Adam. – **Through one man [Adam] sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned** (Romans 5:12).

In the next chapter, we will talk about the river of life that God has placed inside of you, that river flowing out from the tree of life, that is, Jesus alive in your heart, and always going forth from you,

bringing healing and life to all. **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will overflow out of his belly [his womb, his innermost being]** (John 7:38). But first we must establish the authority given to you as a believer in Jesus and to your local assembly as the Body of Christ.

**A Creation of Death.** Look at the world in which you live, the entire human world and everything in it as well as the entire natural world. What you “SEE” is a creation of death, coming out from so-called “morality,” that is, knowing right and wrong. You have never known a creation of life, coming out from the tree of life, out from that river flowing from you.

Nothing of creation was in its completed state when God placed Adam and Eve into the garden. It was God’s full intention to work together with and through mankind in order to shape all creation by goodness and life. Nothing is good in itself. Everything created must be seen good and called to goodness (Genesis 1), that is, into the knowledge of God.

**Transferring Authority.** Adam preferred a fake “god,” a “god” who “knows good and evil” as defined by the serpent. For that reason, no created being in heaven or earth knows anything about a world of life, but only a world shaped, through Adam, by death. And God CANNOT do anything about it, because God does not know sin. The thought of removing the place, the calling, the authority, which He had already given to Adam never enters God’s mind.

BUT – because of Jesus’ willingness, as a human, to bear our sins upon the cross, in raising Jesus out from the dead, God transferred the authority given to Adam over to the human Jesus. God could replace Adam, but He cannot replace man.

**Authority Given to Me.** Here, then, is what Jesus said after His resurrection. – **All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Having gone through {into the Holiest} therefore, disciple all the peoples, immersing them into [God]** (Matthew 28:18-19).

That authority given to Jesus was transferred from Adam, and thus the gifts and calling of God to mankind remain. That same Jesus fills your heart with His glory and lives, now, as you. More than that, that same Jesus inhabits His Body as His visible form, and specifically, your local assembly. How, then, do you express that authority? – **‘Not by might [outward abilities] nor by power [inward fortitude], but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts** (Zechariah 4:6).

**The Verse of Authority.** Let’s look, now, at the ruling verse that establishes this same authority inside of you as a believer as well as with you together as the local Church. – **Now have come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, the one accusing them before our God day and night. And they have overcome him through the blood of the Lamb, and through the word of their testimony; and they have not loved their souls [their self-stories] unto death {unto the one death of Christ}** (Revelation 12:10-11).

Every time the accuser accuses you of falseness or tempts you to see sin and not Christ, you have the backing of God to cast that voice out of your thinking.

**How You Overcome.** You overcome the accuser. You cast all accusation down. And how do you do that? The angel speaking to John gave him, not three things, but one thing carried by two.

That one thing is you, carried in one hand by the Blood, always cleansing you – no consciousness

of sins, and carried in the other hand by the Cross, the complete trade of Jesus' story for yours and yours for His. And you, carried by the Lamb, speak the word of witness, Christ made personal in you, as you, and through you.

Speak Christ your only life. Speak Christ as all that you are. Speak Christ personal as you against all the wailing cries of accusation until you hear them no more.

**A Place of Safety.** But even more than that, speak Christ together with the brothers and sisters with whom you fellowship.

You see, this verse of authority given to you is a word that creates the Church as a place of utter safety. Any temptation to "see sin" in your brother or sister, and not Jesus, is cast down. Any words of belittling or put down are cast down. All accusation is shown the door. As you speak Christ together, Christ made personal as each one of you as well as Christ Himself revealed through your gathering together, so you silence the voice of accusation that torments all mankind.

We will speak more of this authority through the Church, but let's finish here with this authority inside of you.

**Speak Christ.** The authority of God inside of you is Christ as the Mercy Seat of your heart.

You have the authority of God to love your brothers and sisters. You have the authority of God to lay down your life for them, knowing that it is God Himself acting as you. You have the authority of God to see Jesus alone. You have the authority of God to speak kindness and blessing and life.

The river of death is a flood of accusation; we have certainly known such a voice.

The river of life flowing out from you is a river of life and goodness and blessing. Speak Christ;

speak Christ your only life; speak Christ as all that you are.

## 11.2 God through You

Man was created first, as the likeness of God and second, as God's image. These two terms have slightly different meanings. First, to be created like God means that we are designed with the capacity to contain, inside of our humanity, **all the fullness of God**, including the Father's Heart.

Image is slightly different. Image is the visible expression of an invisible Person. **Being conformed with the image of His Son** means that you share together with Jesus being the express image of God's Person. That is, God Himself is seen and known through you as an individual, but even more so, through your gathering together with other believers as you love one another.

**Rivers of Living Water.** Here is the verse of God moving through you into His creation, causing all to know Him, blessing all with life and joy. – **On the last day, that great second Sabbath of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus stood up at the climax, a moment of utter silence and expectation, and cried out loudly, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart, his belly, his innermost being, will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit whom those believing in Him receive; for the Holy Spirit is given as the glory of Jesus** (John 7:38-39 – modified and expanded).

God created you specifically to be His channel as He moves through you, Himself being who and what He is.

**Because You Believe.** In the next chapter we will look at the larger picture of the river of life flowing out from you, and especially from you

together with your local Church. Here we want to make God through you as personal and as real as we can.

Jesus said, “**He who believes in Me, out of his belly will flow rivers of living water.**” Because you believe in Jesus, you KNOW, then, that from the moment you were born again, these rivers of life have been flowing out from you in every direction and at every moment. And you KNOW that it makes no difference what you feel, think, or see outwardly – God is telling you the truth.

**Cast Down Temptation.** The temptation of the evil one is especially strong, however, on a word such as this, even as clear as Jesus was. The first words of the evil one against every word God speaks are “***Did God really say that?***” (Genesis 3:1). And those words, in whatever form they take (*you don’t really believe THAT do you?*) are enough to scare most people away. But to those who want to believe, the temptation becomes stronger.

Jesus says – “**Out of you flow rivers of living water.**” The serpent says – “*Rivers of living water can and ought to be flowing out of you, but are they? Look around and tell me what you see? Ha! If you want life to come out of you, you’d better perform a whole lot better than you are! – loser.*”

**By Speaking Christ.** You have the authority to cast that voice down, not by attacking the serpent or his words, but rather, by seeing Jesus alone.

“Jesus, You say that rivers of living water are flowing out of me because I believe in you. Jesus, I know that you ARE what you speak inside of me. I know that you are true. Therefore, I know that life is always flowing out of me, healing and blessing others, whether I see it or not, and regardless of what I feel. Rivers of living water flow out of me BECAUSE I believe in You alive inside of me.”

You hold the Blood in one hand and the Cross in the other; speak Christ as the only life you are.

**God’s Intention.** It is God’s intention to reveal Himself to His creation, God seen and known, through humans. God’s intentions do not change.

But God seen and known through you requires symmorph, that is sharing the same form, His Person inside of your person and your person inside of His Person through Christ Jesus, our continuous connecting Bond. And symmorph begins for you in Gethsemane as God’s will and your will are merged together as one through the willingness of Jesus.

That is the beginning of symmorph, but the fruit, the result, God’s intention through symmorph is to work all things together with you and you with Him.

**Set-Forth Purpose.** Here is the verse of God’s intention, His set-forth purpose. – **We know moreover that those who are actively loving God are working together [are synergeing together] with God to turn with purpose all—all things, all entities, all circumstances, all moments—into pure and intrinsic goodness, that is, into the knowledge of God. These are those who are continuously being called as and by the precise details of God’s Pro-Thesis, His set-forth purpose from the beginning, the Blueprint of His House, the Lord Jesus** (Romans 8:28 – expanded).

God did not create you just to live inside of you. Neither does God ever do anything separately from you nor you from Him. God wants to work all things entirely together with you.

**Work and Working.** How, then, does God work?

There are two words in the New Testament translated as “work.” One is *energeo*, which is always kept as *energeo* in the Jesus Secret version but is typically translated as “working.” This *energeo* is God as active life Being what He IS inside of us. The other word is *ergo*, which is more properly translated

“work,” that is, it refers to the outward doing that shapes outward accomplishments.

Jesus said this: **The one believing into Me, the works [ergo] that I do, he also will do, and greater than these he will do, because I am always going towards the Father** (John 14:12)

**Father Does His Works.** Just before that, Jesus said this: **“The Father dwelling inside of Me does His works”** (John 14:10). Jesus Himself did not ever “do” anything, for of Himself He could not. Rather, everything Jesus did was the Father doing inside of (*energeo*) and through (*ergo*) Jesus. But it’s not even the Father who performs the actual work. **It’s not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.** It is the Spirit flowing out as a river who accomplishes all that Father and you intend.

When God commissioned Adam to subdue all, He did not intend for Adam to use his imaginative and fake self to do that. God intended that rivers of living water would flow out from Adam bringing life and joy to all.

**How God Works.** If it is the Holy Spirit flowing forth as rivers of life that causes God and your intentions to be accomplished, what, exactly, do you and God do together as your part in this wondrous flow of life?

You must remember that nothing created can be good in itself for the simple fact that God is invisible. God cannot be known. Thus all created things first know only a state of vanity. The knowledge of God can enter each one ONLY through their express permission, which God calls “faith.”

Here is how God works. – **Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good...** (Genesis 1:3). God speaks, and all things become. God sees good, and all things ARE good.

**Speak and See.** God speaking and God seeing always come first. Yet it is this very authority, then, that God gave to Adam, a gift that cannot be removed from humans.

It is as you speak and then as you see, that all things are what they are.

Those who speak cursing and see sin work with Adam to continue a universe of death. Those who speak Christ and see Him in all things, work with Father to bring forth a universe of life. Here’s how Paul said the same thing: **God, who is always giving life to the dead and calling into existence things not existing** (Romans 4:17).

**Expecting the Spirit.** Those who are actively loving God are synergeing together with God to turn all things into pure and intrinsic goodness, that is, into the knowledge of God. This is why you speak good grace for the sake of all things, as the very Mercy Seat of God, for you and Father together are always making all things good.

But neither you nor Father have to “make it happen.” Rather, you and Father together rest in utter confidence EXPECTING that the Spirit of God IS flowing out from you accomplishing all that you and Father intend.

It is the Spirit flowing out who gives life. It is the Spirit who makes all things good. You believe in Jesus; rivers of Spirit are ALWAYS flowing out of you.

## 11.3 Your Great Task

And now we come to the Great Task you and Father are accomplishing together through the sent-forth Holy Spirit. That task is setting creation free, that is, altering the river by which all things “know,” from death, that is, from split-apartness, to a world of life. Or, as Paul said, bringing all things in creation into the glorious liberty in which you already live, that is, God seen and known through you.

Again, this task is your own commission from God as well as one you share together with those precious brothers and sisters with whom you fellowship. You together as the Church are setting all things free.

**The Decider.** But to understand this great task, we must look again at God's intentions from the beginning. God never intended the universe of death in which we live; God always intended only a universe of life. Yet God placed Adam as the deciding agent, and that role continues to be played by all humans from then until now. That choosing is always between human performance versus faith in Christ. Word on the outside enables human performance, but Word on the inside is Christ Jesus our life.

Yet there was a greater contention taking place in the garden, the contention between the Word God speaks and that voice which accuses the Word of falseness – *Did God indeed say?*

**Against All Accusation.** God never defends Himself against accusation; rather, He just bears the hurt. But God always proves Jesus faithful and true as every Word God speaks. And the place where God intends Jesus proven faithful and true against all voices of accusation is inside your local gathering together as the Church.

Your confidence that Christ is all that you are must enlarge itself to include that confidence that asserts with all boldness, "We together, in all our interactions together, are the expression of Christ through us." Your knowledge of personal union with Christ reaches out to include that same union of Christ with you as you walk together loving one another with a pure heart fervently.

**Setting Creation Free.** Here is the verse of our great task as the Church, which Paul set right at the heart of his gospel. – **For the earnest expectation [the eager anticipation] of the creation awaits**

**intently for the unveiling [removing the cover from off] of the sons of God. Indeed, the creation was made subject to vanity and purposelessness, not willingly, but through being subjected on the basis of hope that creation itself also will be made free from slavery and corruption into the freedom [liberty] of the glory of the children birthed out from God. Indeed, we know that all the creation groans together and travails together until now** (Romans 8:19-22).

Your task is to set creation free.

**Glorious Liberty.** But before you together as the local Church can set creation free, you must first know the incredibly glorious liberty and salvation in which you fully live.

**Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty** (2 Corinthians 3:17) – **For by one Spirit we were all immersed into one body... and have all been made to drink one Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12:13). Church is the glorious liberty of all Salvation.

**The Church, all the gathering together, which is His body, the fullness of Christ [the full meaning that is Christ] filling all in all, Jesus filling with Himself everything in everyone** (Ephesians 1:23 – expanded). You together ARE the fullness of Christ right now.

**Salvation Complete.** Consider the Salvation inside of which you presently live together. That Salvation is the Lord Jesus, that is, living in John 14:20.

The Salvation that is the Church is complete and perfect, with no thought of ever falling short of God, but rather, all expectation that Father works all things together with you. As you acknowledge Father with you, so you KNOW that you live only in undiminished goodness, regardless of the privilege of present travail. And as you share in fellowship with one another, you KNOW that all of your interactions

together ARE Father making Himself visible through your love of one another.

**What Is the Cover?** Inside of this glorious liberty, then, you look out and you see a creation staggering under the horror of not knowing God. Yet you do not see what is “visible,” that is, the defiance and arrogance. Rather, you see as God sees, you see an inherent longing and expectation inside every single created being in heaven and earth and under the earth to be free.

But what is every single entity “out there” eagerly expecting? They are longing for the day when the cover is removed from you. And not just you, but the cover removed from all those with whom you fellowship together as one Body of Christ.

What is that cover, and what happens when it is removed? The cover has been the blindness of your own eyes.

**Seeing Jesus As He Is.** The cover that has kept the sons of God from being known is the veil of blindness on your own eyes. You do not yet see as God sees, and you do not yet know your authority to send forth rivers of life into the healing and restoration of all things.

But that is beginning to change. And the place it is and must be changing is inside your gathering together, as you love one another.

It is as you see the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself in Person, in the face of each one with whom you walk together, then you see Jesus as He is, and you are just like Him. Then, it is but a simple thing to see the rivers of Spirit flowing out from your togetherness as Christ, bringing life to all.

**The Proof of Christ.** Look at the world all around you right now. What proof do you have that rivers of LIFE are flowing out from you setting creation free?

Here is your proof. – **Now, faith is the substance [hypostasis – the underlying reality] of things hoped for, the proof of things not now being perceived** (Hebrews 11:1). Your absolute confidence that Christ IS all that you are and working now through you, regardless, is the first part of the proof of God.

Nonetheless, evidence always requires two or more witnesses. Your confidence in Christ, even your confidence together as the Church is one witness proving Jesus faithful and true.

**The Second Witness of Christ.** But what is the second witness of Christ? Christ proven faithful and true requires two witnesses. What is the second witness of Christ?

**And the glory which You have given Me, I have given them, that they might be one as We are one; I inside of them, and You inside of Me, that they might be perfected, brought to full completion inside of one, that the world might know that You sent Me, and have loved them in just the same way that You have loved Me** (John 17:22-23).

The first witness of Christ is your confidence together that you, as the local Church, ARE the fullness of Christ revealed, even as you find yourself to be right now. And the second witness of Christ is how much you **LOVE ONE ANOTHER** through every daily circumstance.

**Love One Another.** This is the real singularity, that one moment and circumstance that changes everything.

When the world sees Christians, people just like themselves, walking together regarding one another as Jesus Himself and loving one another as God loves them, that is, Father Himself as all their connections together, they will know that God sent Jesus into the world. They will know that they are seeing God made-visible, God seen-and-known.

**Love one another**, full reciprocal love, is the final proof of Christ, every Word God speaks, faithful and true. **Love one another** in all fulness, in all God means by those words, right here on this earth, right now in this age, silences forever all accusation against God.

**Now Is Come.** And it is out from loving one another, then, that you together as believers in Jesus send forth the river of the Spirit that brings life and healing to all.

Here is what you must understand. Nothing in either heaven or earth has ever known a cosmos of life. Such a thing has not yet happened. But when the angel said to John, **Now is come the authority of Christ** (Revelation 12:10), God was placing this task upon you and me to bring all things into subjection to LIFE, to a cosmos of life. And as you love one another, inside of all your human silliness, you together are standing in the very place Adam ruined, and you are sending into creation a River of Life.

**All Things Made New. Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband** (Revelation 21:1-2).

When you read John's vision, you are reading nothing other than the gospel of Christ, expressed by Paul and confirmed by John, but in a third form. This is where we live right now, together as the Church, God's New Jerusalem, living in full union with Jesus as His Body walking this earth right now.

**Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words [the Lord Jesus Christ] are true and faithful."**

**The Points of Victory.** Here are the tremendous points of victory in and through the Church inside of knowing Jesus as He is.

31. God placed humans as His authority over all. Changing our place never enters God's mind. We have the authority of God to love one another and to call all things into goodness.

32. The work of God flows into all creation through humans. God reveals Himself, makes Himself known through us together, and His work is accomplished in creation by the sending forth of the Spirit as a River of Life.

33. The great task of believers is to set creation free. Our confidence is the first proof of Christ, and our loving one another is the second. As we love one another, so that River of Life flows out into all things, bringing all things into the glorious liberty of our Salvation.