

LET US... Keep in step with the Spirit

Claude Lainey – January 11, 2026

Galatians 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

1. God dwells where unity is honoured: Unity in worship
2. God moves where people are united. **Acts 1:14 (NIV)** “They all joined together constantly in prayer...”
3. God works through agreement. **Amos 3:3** “Can two walk together unless they agree?” Two or Three gathered together in His name... Matt. 18
4. God commands (appoints) blessing where there is unity. **Psalm 133**
5. God releases power through unity — The upper room — **Acts 2**
6. God's calling is always corporate — God called to himself a people!

Three vivid metaphors we find in the New Testament as pictures for us.

i. **Head and body (Eph. 5:23; Col 1:18)**

1 Corinthians 12:21, 27 (NIV) The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"...²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

ii. **Vine and branches (John 15:5) — We are branches connected to the vine!**

iii. **Cornerstone and temple (Eph 2:19-21) - We are living stones.**

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NIV84) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Matthew 16:18 (NIV) 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.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us

When we look at the “Lord's prayer,” we find “plurality”!

OUR Father, who is in heaven hallowed be your name ... Give US this day OUR daily bread, and forgive US OUR trespasses, as WE forgive those who trespass against US. And lead US not into temptation”

Two Errors we see in the church today:

- i. Some emphasize the unity and relationship of the members of the Body, to the exclusion of Christ.
- ii. Some emphasize the relationship between individuals (me) with Christ, to the exclusion of the other members of the Body.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) FOR WE ARE ... God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We find two main institutions in the Bible:

- i. First the Family
- ii. Church or God's people!

Individualism weakens the family

- **What individualism sounds like...**
 - "I need to be happy first."
 - "This doesn't work for me anymore."
 - "I need to follow my heart."
- **What individualism produces...**
 - Commitment becomes conditional
 - Sacrifice feels unfair
 - Roles and responsibility are avoided, there is no ownership!
- **Biblical Truths**
 - Family is built on covenant, not convenience
 - Love means laying down our rights for others
 - Maturity is shown in responsibility, not independence

Individualism weakens the Church

- **What it sounds like...**
 - "I'll attend when it fits my schedule."
 - "I have my life to live. My faith is personal, not communal."
 - "I'll serve if it matches my gifts and season."
 - "I'll give and contribute when I feel like it!"
- **What individualism produces...**
 - Consumers instead of contributors
 - Preference trumps over purpose
 - Conditional commitment instead of ownership
- **Biblical truths**
 - The church is a body, not a service provider.
 - The body cannot function with independent parts. No part exists for itself.
 - The church is a covenant people, not a loose association.
 - ▶ Covenant involves commitment, faithfulness, and sacrifice!
 - The Church is God's household! God dwelling! He dwells in the "together"!
 - The church has a calling: "The I is rooted in the US!"

1 Corinthians 3:13 (LB) There is going to come a time of testing at Christ's Judgment Day to see what kind of material each builder has used. Everyone's work will be put through the fire so that all can see whether or not it keeps its value, and what was really accomplished.

Exodus 26:30 (NIV) Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain.

Family and Church follow God's design – 7 Ingredients

- 1. Pursuit of God together — We are God's habitation; worshipping together!** Psalms 22:3
- 2. Praying together — Waging war together; standing together!** Acts 1:17
- 3. Giving together — Generosity; tithing & first fruits.** 2 Corinthians 8-9
- 4. Living together & to be devoted to each other — Community and love; doing life together, letting people get close to us!** Philippians 2
- 5. Serving together — Washing each other's feet; showing love by giving of ourselves to others.** John 13 & 17
- 6. Developing a biblical worldview — To be rooted in His Word!** Romans 12:1-2
- 7. Reaching together in purpose & mission — Corporate calling; moving together as a platoon!** Acts 1:8