



## ***Day One: No Spot or Wrinkle***

We've been talking about the singular temple that God is building. And His singular temple is also described as His Bride (Rev 21) – His glorious Bride, without spot or wrinkle.

How do we become the Bride without spot or wrinkle? I believe it has everything to do with our becoming one as the body of Christ. Because it's only when we walk in purity of love that we can come together in oneness as His singular house. Division is an ugly spot. It shows us that we're not fully healed and therefore not fully walking in love, because love comes out of a pure heart. Love is not divided against itself.

We can only love through His healing, purifying grace. When we allow Him to have His way and to heal us, all of the wounds in our hearts which keep us in competition and keep us divided will be gone, we will come together as His singular house, and the world will see His glory through His spotless Bride.

***Ephesians 5:27 (AMP)*** *That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing [that she might be holy and faultless].*

This is Christ's assignment and He's not going to stop until He sees it completed, because it is in the glory of His spotless Bride that the world will come to know Him. If there is any spot or wrinkle on the body of Christ in the eyes of the world, it is certainly this - the hypocrisy of our division. Because they know, just as we do in our hearts, that we are called to love. And division is not a fruit of love or the Kingdom of God.

God is building His temple. When He lives in each of our hearts, He lives in the singular house He is building – THE temple for the Lord. We are called living stones, and He is placing us side by side and fitting us together perfectly in love, to build His house. He lives in this united, side by side, temple of one stone laid carefully beside the next. Not in multiple houses, not in denominational houses. But in His house! That's where His Spirit and anointing lies.

Just as the Bride's gown is intact and whole, the temple is singular. This is the ONLY house He's building, so if we're trying to build a house on our own, we



can be sure it's not His house! If we're part of a denomination which has its own blueprint, separate to the rest of the body, how are we going to ever build something which fits together? If we're trying to fit the stones where we think they go instead of where He says they go, it's not His house! If we're trying to build a wall that doesn't connect with the body outside of our denomination, it's not His house! His blueprints never fail and they always fit together perfectly, in oneness and in love.

His house will forevermore be one.



Are you trying to build a wall, or be built into His singular temple? Do you belong to a denomination which is trying to build a wall rather than being built into His singular temple?

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## ***Day Two: The End of the Hostility***

Most believers realise that we can't do anything of eternal worth without Jesus Christ. Yet we often think we can do things without the rest of His body, forgetting that His body is Christ's expression on this earth.

***Ephesians 1:23 (TPT)*** And now we, his church, are his body on the earth.

This is how Jesus has chosen to represent Himself on earth. To say we don't need His body is almost like saying we don't need Him. So if we need His body, wouldn't it make sense that we are built into this temple together? He is not and cannot build a temple that is anything other than singular, therefore it is impossible for us to be part of His temple without also being part of each other.

***1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT)*** Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

***Ephesians 2:16 (MSG)*** Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility...

As we saw last week, Jesus died to end the division between us. Paul couldn't be any clearer – we're not to be divided! And if you add that to what Jesus prayed in John 17 before going to the cross, and all the other scriptures in the Bible about unity and oneness, we have to come to the conclusion that it's not that God didn't make it obvious... it's not that we just missed it. But that we as a body chose to distinctly disobey the word of God in this area of oneness. We've divided up the body, nullified our power by doing so, and erected a model which is direct opposition to the word of God. And now we think it's impossible to change it, because we've never seen it done differently, we don't know where to start, and possibly also deep down, we really do like our spotlights, our buildings, people 'coming under our vision and theology', and our paid positions funded by those who do.

Yet all things are possible to him who believes.

All it takes is for His body to embrace God's heart for the singular temple as more important than any other blueprints. The house that has been erected by man and not by God will come down, and we'll have to lay down our prestige,



hierarchical positions, titles and possibly even our financial 'security' so that His body can come together as one, and the dream of God's heart can come to pass. It may not be comfortable, but it will be so worth it! Yes, there'll be a battle of the flesh the church is going to have to walk through for Holy Spirit to resolve this, but He's already started the process. And those who will see it for what it is, repent and come out of division and into oneness and the fullness of the Kingdom will thrive. That's where His glory will rest.

It's a big transition time, and He's asking us to be obedient to His Word and understand His heart. He wants His family back together again. He wants His singular temple to stand strong and be a witness to the world. To those who love the One who died to save us, His heart for a singular house is our delight.



The word says that 'the Cross got us to embrace'. Do you feel a though you embrace the body of Christ outside of your 'congregation' or 'denomination' or even group of friends? Ask Holy Spirit why, even though He died on the cross, His body is not fully embracing? Write down what He tells you:

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## ***Day Three: God Birthed a Family***

The House God is Building has many facets. We've spent more than the last week looking at the fact that it is a singular house. And we've also seen that it is built by Love, He is building it, and that we are His house. Yet, there's still so much more revelation to explore which God has given us through His Word about what His House of Love really is. Today, we are going to begin with the next key: The House He's building is a family.

### **It's a Family**

God is a Father. And as a Father, when He created the world, it was not an institution that He desired, but a family. Of all the ways He could have described Himself, He didn't call Himself 'God the CEO', or 'God the Senior Pastor'. He called Himself 'God the Father'. Our Father. He wasn't interested in building a great big mega-church, climbing ladders of manmade success, or opening multiple outlets across the world in His name. He could have created the most incredibly successful organisation, business or institution in the entire world, just by decreeing it. But that's not where His focus was. His focus was on people, His children. His focus was family.

**He didn't want an institution. He wanted a family.**

**He didn't want to be a CEO. He wanted to be a Father.**

***Ephesians 2:19 – 22 (NLT) ...you are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.***

God doesn't have an institutional bone in his body or thought in His mind! When Paul got saved, Holy Spirit just told him to "Go!" He didn't tell him to start an institution or a program and replicate what Holy Spirit was doing in various locations. Paul wasn't thinking about how to repeat what God was doing in other places. He was strategic, for sure. But He knew the best strategy was to keep pressing into Holy Spirit, follow Him wherever He went and whatever new thing He was doing, get his blueprints from heaven, obey them,



and leave the rest up to God. Paul knew He wasn't the builder, but that God was.

When God started giving revelation to a united remnant of His people in our geographic location, Holy Spirit started directing gatherings which drew the body of Christ together from many towns, cities and even states. There was obvious fruit and anointing on what God was doing. And my immediate thought as a woman with a business degree and mentality was that God was birthing a ministry and we needed to register it and put all of the processes in place for it to function as a ministry.

But when we sought Holy Spirit about it, He clearly said to one of my dear friends: "Don't form it."

We couldn't understand why. I felt a little bit frustrated, to tell you the truth. I didn't understand with my existing mental framework how to move forward without registering a trading name, designing and logo and putting up a website. But what I didn't realise at the time what was God was about to teach us about His heart for family...

## Soak Time

What do you understand about the difference between institution and family?  
What aspects of institution do you experience in the church? What aspects of family do you experience in the church?

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## ***Day Four: Moving With God's New Thing***

Throughout the history of the church, as revelation has come to the body of Christ, and God has moved, man has tried to capture and replicate it. He's put a name to it, put it in an institution and created a program or a denomination out of it. Yet while man has still been busy putting that together, God has already been off doing the new thing... to be captured by the next institution. And so the cycle has continued. The old thing God was doing, which still felt like a new thing to man, has always been put into a structure to try to keep it alive. Yet the very act of doing that has usually brought death. That's why we have thousands of denominations, and many of them were birthed on some truly anointed and amazing moves of God. Yet they are now skeletons with very little of the Presence of God, in comparison to what God was doing at their conception.

Still, the church has had this mindset that we have to institutionalise everything or turn it into a program. I'm not sure why that is? Perhaps it is because then we can gauge, or the world can know, 'who' was responsible for the growth? Do we want recognition? Perhaps it's because we find it easier than pressing into God's heart and leaving our comfort zones to follow where His Spirit wants to go? Or perhaps we are just following the way the world does it because we've never stopped and asked if that's how God wants it?

One thing is for sure. When institution came into the body of Christ, we lost far more than we gained.

Institution brought position, whereas beforehand there was only function. Institution bought hierarchy, as the institutions of the church took their cue from the institutions of the world and built something that looked just like it. We forgot that our blueprints are supposed to come from heaven, not from the world. Hierarchy bought a ladder to climb – a ministry ladder instead of a corporate one - and a spotlight to gain. It bought titles to promote and live up to. It brought kingdoms to build in the name of the institution, in the race for success.

But the worst thing that happened when institution came was that we lost true, genuine family. We lost the focus on people and deep, intimate connectedness. We lost touch with His heart. We exchanged family for





institution, thinking we were progressing. But we were losing an inheritance, exchanging our birthright for a bowl of stew.

When institution came in, we lost the apostolic fathers and mothers. Where are the apostles? How many believers in the body of Christ even know what an apostle is or how to recognise one? Do we understand their calling and function? Apostles are never about position. They know they are the foundation... laying down their lives to lift up others. They, along with the prophets, are the foundation of the church, and they are called to father and mother the body in an environment of intimacy, love and connectedness.

When we lost the apostolic fathers and mothers, we lost the ones who could see inside of the treasure chests embedded within each person (Col 1:26 – 27 TPT), and prophetically declare and unlock what was hidden within. Consequently, we have generations of people filled with the fullness of the Trinity, and yet they are hidden and snared in houses of bondage (Is 42:22 NKJV).

No loving father or mother thinks themselves more valuable than their children. They lay down their lives for their children. They sacrifice for their children. There may be some parents who have a hierarchical perspective, dominating their families, but that is a legalistic, religious spirit. A truly loving parent will do anything so that their child can live their full potential. This is what we lost.

Also, no loving parent puts one child on a pedestal while hiding the other. Every parent wants to see the true potential fulfilled in each of their children, not simply in a 'special' one here or there. Apostolic Fathers and Mothers see the treasure in all and raise them up to shine. Institution raises up only a few to shine, and hides the rest (because there's no other option where hierarchy exists – someone has to be at the top).

### **Institution kills the move of God and limits the people of God.**

When God showed us these things, we realised why He was directing us not to form anything institutionally. He showed us how to come into heart connectedness with Him and each other, hear from heaven, simply obey Holy Spirit, and leave the rest to Him.





All of the fears and questions we had about how we could possibly move forward without registering a ministry were answered by Holy Spirit, and He showed us how to function.

That is why One Heart is a message, not a ministry. It is part of His heart. We are simply members of His family – one with Him and one with each other.

Is this how He is directing everyone? Not to form it. You'll have to ask Him! He's shown us it's possible to function without institution, but I do believe this: Institution is a spirit and a mindset of functionality, more than it is an organisation. I believe people who are not members of any organisation can still be institutional. That is, they care more about achievement, to do lists and programs etc... than people. They are out of touch with the freshness of the Spirit and His priority for family.

If that is the case, it's probably also possible for organisations to not be institutional. We just have generally seen very little evidence of this. Also, it would be impossible to achieve without the anointing of genuine apostles and prophets as part of that organisation, who have a Fathering and Mothering heart and are raising up spiritual sons and daughters who will then in turn raise up more sons and daughters. As soon as the 'chain' of not following the freshness of Holy Spirit and raising up sons and daughters is broken, there will be institution again and loss of His Presence.

I believe there's a lot of revelation to be given in this area... much to seek the Lord about regarding HOW it is possible. But if He says it is possible, it is. And if we ask Him, He'll show us.



Ask the Lord to show you His blueprint for family in the body of Christ. What do you see and hear?

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## ***Day Five: Regaining Our Inheritance***

The good news, is that the church is starting to awaken to our inheritance of family, and to move back towards it. John Alley articulates this very well, and when you read what he writes, I believe you'll have the same 'Aha!' moment as I had when I first read it. For this quote succinctly describes what is meant by being 'institutional':

*"The body of Christ is changing from being institutional, and denominational and organisation, and it is becoming relational. It is changing from being centered around formal organised activities to becoming centered around relationships and the heart. The Church is becoming like Christ.*

This was a great revelation to me when I first read it, in June 2015. And then I realised that as I am the Ekklesia (and so are you), the only way that the church can change from being institutional to being relational, is if we each change from being institutional to being relational. I inserted my name into John Alley's quote, and this is what I wrote in my journal:

\_\_\_\_\_ is changing from being institutional and denominational and organisational, and she is becoming relational. She is changing from being centered around formal organised activities to becoming centered around relationships and the heart. People are her priority. \_\_\_\_\_ is becoming like Christ.

I realised that we have denominations because people are denominational! It's only as individuals become like Christ – relational, with their lives flowing around relationships rather than around activities and tasks – that the church can change.

**WE – PEOPLE – ARE THE CHURCH! Therefore WE – PEOPLE – MUST CHANGE!**

This whole shift cannot happen until we change. WE are the new wineskin – the 'container' of the Holy Spirit. He is taking us from DO to BE. He is building something less tangible but far more real.

Prior to this revelation, I was very much driven by achievement and my daily to do list. If someone dared to interrupt my plan for the day by calling in unannounced or phoning me when we hadn't scheduled a time to speak, I'd be



very frustrated. And stop for someone when I was down the street shopping?!?!?! They'd be lucky if I even saw them, because I was like a woman on a mission, with a one track mind. But after this moment, I knew that a Divine shift had to take place in my heart:

***From External to Internal***

***From Actions to Hearts***

***From Servanthood to Sonship***

For the church to change, we must first change. But if we are willing, we will see our inheritance restored.



Institution is more concerned with formal organised activities, achievement, programs and tasks. Family is more concerned with relationships, intimacy, connectedness and the heart. Have you leaned more towards institution or family?

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If you've been more institutional than relational, are you now ready to repent from this, choose to be part of restoring our lost inheritance back to the body of Christ? If so, put your name into the following quote and declare it over yourself today:

\_\_\_\_\_ is changing from being institutional and denominational and organisational, and she is becoming relational. She is changing from being centered around formal organised activities to becoming centered around relationships and the heart. People are her priority. \_\_\_\_\_ is becoming like Christ.