



THE

Blessed

LIFE

made holy; consecrated.

A CHURCH FOR THE AGES



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The Church is a group of people saved by God's Son, shaped by God's Word, serving as God's emissaries.



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This is God's Word for my life in this Place and at this Time. Today I am a new creation in Christ, I am God's very own, and I KNOW He has a purpose for my life.



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I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.



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What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?



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What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.



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The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:5-9



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The Latin word for "church," ecclesia, comes from the Greek 'ek', which means "out," and 'kaleo', which means "to call." The Church is the people of God called out of slavery to freedom, sin to salvation, despair to hope, darkness to light, an existence centered on wants to an existence focused gifts.



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CALLED OUT OR CALLED INTO?



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Division comes from COMPETITION

PAUL is the established, the founder.

APOLLOS is the new young dynamic leader.

CEPHAS is the megachurch, super-star.



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ASSIGNMENT: We are co-workers in God's Service

Builders of the House, Field hands of the Harvest,

Contributors in the Body



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INTERRELATED: We require community

“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.” Martin Luther King, Jr.



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FOUNDATION: We are rooted in Christ

Like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.



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FOCUS: *Becoming a Church for all Ages!*

- i. Look back and **THANK** God
- ii. Look forward and **TRUST** God
- iii. Look around and **SERVE** God
- iv. Look within and **FIND** God.



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ARE WE READY?