

## The Bundle Of Sticks

An old man on the point of death summoned his sons around him to give them some parting advice. He ordered his servants to bring in a faggot of sticks, and said to his eldest son:

"Break it."

The son strained and strained, but with all his efforts was unable to break the Bundle. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful.

"Untie the faggots," said the father, "and each of you take a stick."

When they had done so, he called out to them:

"Now, break," and each stick was easily broken. "You see my meaning," said their father.

MORAL: Union gives strength

Union with Christ gives us strength; also union with each other in the Church gives us strength.

## Purpose Of The Church

❖ **Christ Built, Loved and Died For The Church**

### **Matthew 16:18**

**18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Church (ekklesia) = assembly

## **I Peter 2:4-9**

**4** To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious

**5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**6** Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

**7** Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

**8** And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

**9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

## **Ephesians 5:25**

**25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

### **❖ The Local Church**

An assembly of professed believers on the Lord Jesus Christ living for the most part in one locality, who assemble themselves together in his name for the breaking of bread, worship, praise, prayer, testimony, the ministry of the word, discipline, and the furtherance of the Gospel.

## **Matthew 18:20**

**20** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

## **Assembling Together**

### **Hebrews 10:25**

**25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

## **Breaking of Bread**

### **Acts 20:7**

**7** And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

## **Worship, Praise, Prayer**

### **I Corinthians 14:26,**

**26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

### **I Corinthians 5:4,5**

**4** In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**5** To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

## **Testimony,**

### **Philippians 4: 14-18**

**14** Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

**15** Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

**16** For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

**17** Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.

### **I Thessalonians 1:8**

**8** For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

### **Ministry of the Word, Furtherance of the Gospel**

#### **Acts 13:1-4**

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

The purpose of the church is for all believers to come together in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ for the breaking of bread, worship, praise, prayer, testimony, ministry, discipline, and the great commission 'the spreading of the gospel'. Offering spiritual sacrifices unto God through Jesus Christ.

