

## The Story

A Story Within a Story (The Church and Her Authority)

Class Notes

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 1 A HUGE HURDLE

- There is hardly a greater hurdle in life than the issue of \_\_\_\_\_...BUT, what does it mean?
  - The answer is critically important because \_\_\_\_\_ is a huge part of story development.

### 2 THE TRUE POWER IN THE CHURCH

- The Problem of Power
  - Power = the ability or capacity to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the behavior of others or the course of events.
  - The Fall of Humanity in the Garden.
- **John 13:34-35 (ESV) — 34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
  - Why is this a NEW COMMANDMENT?
  - It's NEW because people rarely love at a \_\_\_\_\_.
- **1 John 4:12-14 (ESV) — 12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
  - There is no greater sign of \_\_\_\_\_ in you than your love for another.
- Here's our biggest problem when it comes to love: WE'RE ALWAYS WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

3 **THE CHURCH IS THE AUTHORITY OF GOD IN THE EARTH.**

- **Matthew 16:18–19 (ESV) — 18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
  - Here’s a huge theme in the story arc for the Church: we are God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to manifesting His authority in the earth.
  - Consider **John 3:16**.
  - Jesus could hand off the keys to Peter because he would ultimately bear the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- **Ephesians 4:11–14 (ESV) — 11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
  - The primary goal of all Church ministries is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Look at the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_:
    - Faith
    - Knowledge of the Son of God
    - Maturity
    - The FULLNESS of Christ in us.
    - Stability in all the Storms of Life
    - Stability in Doctrine/Truth
- There is no authority without \_\_\_\_\_ undergirded by \_\_\_\_\_.

4 **THE CALL TO UNITY AND “ONE NEW MAN.”**

- **Ephesians 2:14–22 (ESV) — 14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off

and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- There is no \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ—its antithetical to who He is.
  - The cross makes \_\_\_\_\_ with all humanity.
  - Jesus tears down the \_\_\_\_\_ we use against one another.
  - Notice in the church, the power comes not from \_\_\_\_\_ but in how we are \_\_\_\_\_ together as a dwelling place for God.
- **John 17:20–23 (ESV) — 20** “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.
- There is no greater \_\_\_\_\_ than our love for one another.
- We are a \_\_\_\_\_ within a \_\_\_\_\_.

## 5 A CALL TO THE BRIDE

- Without everyone else's \_\_\_\_\_, you don't have one.
- **Ephesians 4:15–16 (ESV) — 15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
  - If we're not walking in love and unity, we actually \_\_\_\_\_ both ourselves and the rest of the body.

- \_\_\_\_\_ must be priority in all relationships.
  - **1 John 4:19–21 (ESV) — 19** We love because he first loved us. **20** If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.
  
- Putting your best foot forward cannot be done with our philosophies or ideologies—it’s best done by our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to see another made whole.
  - Most people are looking for an \_\_\_\_\_; Christ is looking to \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- While we all have differing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, make your story arc about *releasing all into their divine story.*

## BASIC STORY ARC

