

# We Instead Of Me

The church is not a building you go to, it's a group of people. Right?

But people call these buildings where we meet, the church. And so that's what we have to call it in order for people to understand what we're talking about when we reference this building.

This is a church building but the people are the church. Specifically the followers of Jesus...or the body of Christ.

WE are the church. But I wouldn't say that I am the church. I am a part of it. A member. And the church is made up of many members.

## **1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)**

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

If we individually are members but together are the body or church. You could say we NEED each other...couldn't you?

Yet I wonder why we see so much individuality in the church these days. We see people that attend or not based on whether they need something today or not.

Now I believe we should come together with an expectation to have our needs met...but if that's all we're making the decision from...that's a "me first" attitude...

What can I get? How do I feel? What do I need? But Paul said:

***"It is more blessed to give than to receive."***

That means you're better off when you give than you are when you get. Because the more you give the more you're able to receive.

Do you know how rechargeable batteries work? Basically they are built to have so many cycles. They can only be recharged that number of times. They can only receive so much charge and they are full. So if you never use them, you can't really recharge them.

If you use them about 50% and then recharge them, it's not half a cycle, it's still 1 cycle. And worse, if you do this over and over, they can create "memory" and not fully drain or fully charge. What is best for rechargeable batteries is to drain them to 0% and then charge them to 100%. This is why we leave our batteries in and mics on every week.

Like these batteries, the more you give the better you can receive. The more you pour out, the more you can be filled up.

Life is not about just staying on the charger and being a standby just in case you are needed. You only have so many cycles (years) and while you can guess the expected number of cycles, it may be more and it may be less. But the more you pour out, the more you can be filled up...we should make every cycle count!

The church should be more focused on WE INSTEAD OF ME.

**Romans 12:5 (NKJV)**

so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

We are in this together and if you win, I win. Because when we are members of the body of Christ...we are members of one another! That means we need each other.

That means that if I focus on WE instead of me...then I'm looking at what I can do to bless you...to help you...to encourage you...how can I give today.

You shouldn't be deciding on whether you are going to be here based on if you need something but on the fact that you have something to give...and there's someone here that needs it today!

YOU aren't the church...WE ARE. Along with every other follower of Jesus! Every church that preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ from the Word of God.

**John 13:34-35 (NKJV)**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Love is about others. You know in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul tells us a lot of things about love...and one of those things is that it is not **self seeking**. Because it's not about you...it's about those around you. It's about Jesus. It's what Connection Church is about.

**Connect with Jesus. Connect with People. Connect People with Jesus.**

We instead of Me.

We can't be straight consumers. For 15 years I've been in church leadership. Some of you have been even longer than that. If you have been in church leadership, one thing you know to be true is that 20% of the people do 80% of the work.

That means 80% of the people have been ME focused consumers.

You know what consumers do?

I'll give you an example. When I sit down in front of a juicy double bacon cheeseburger. There are a couple things that are going to happen. I'm going to get something on my shirt...and I'm going to destroy that cheeseburger.

When you see me wiping my hands and mouth, with grease running down my hands and sauce on my face...What just happened to that burger? I consumed it.

Or I destroyed it. That's what consume means...to use up, to destroy, to devour.

Consumers destroy. Because the other 20% get tired and worn out at some point. This is why Paul said:

**Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Paul said that because people DO grow weary in doing good...sometimes before the harvest...before we reap...sometimes we lose heart.

Now that's on us...but what if we were the anomaly? What if we were the We instead of Me kind of people. What if even 50% of the people did 80% of the work instead of 20%?

I believe God has given this body the people to do every single thing that He's calling us to do. I also believe that we're waiting for people to step up and do things. (In the building and out)

I've said for years...I understand the 80/20 model and I think it's unChristlike. We're not a hamburger blend...80/20 isn't bad for that...it's bad for the people of God though! I think we can expect more because God expects more.

Jesus didn't die on a cross to forgive our sin and rise from the dead to offer us the same life we already had but we sometimes go to a church service...it was to give us a new life that is devoted to Him and His bride...the church...serving as He served...We Instead of Me.

**Philippians 2:1-8 (NKJV)**

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Like minded, same love, one accord, one mind.

Nothing through selfish ambition or conceit

Consider others more important than yourself...looking not to your own interests but the interests of others

It's all about We instead of Me. This was the mind of Christ and it's supposed to be the mind of His church. Whether methodist or baptist or lutheran, non-denominational, pentecostal...we are all in this thing together.

It's not about our reputation unless our reputation is that we look like Christ. The people that defy the 80/20 model because everyone shows up and says "how can I help?", "what can I do?".

How can I be like Christ today? Almost always serving...there aren't many times where He wasn't. Even when Martha was washing His feet, He was surely speaking about the Kingdom of God...the one we are a part of...the one we are to be building...together!

When you look at the early church, they were always together, always praying, always eating, always reading God's word, always growing (in number and in Spirit). They had a We instead of Me mindset.

How often do we see Jesus by Himself? Pretty much only to pray when He had poured out all that He had or before He went out to give all that He had. He got alone with God to be filled up...only to go out and be emptied again...

In the garden, facing the cross, Jesus said "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." We instead of Me.

This is our God. This is our model for life. This is the **like mindedness** we are supposed to have. The same love, the one accord...the one of Jesus. The One who came to serve, not to be served...

We Instead of Me.