



Gathered for Others –
Living in Community

The Great Commission. Matthew 28...

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore, go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Metaphors of Church

- Flock
- Vineyard
- City
- Temple/House
- Army



Ephesians 2:19 ff

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole **structure**, being **joined together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:16 ff

Rather, speaking the truth in **love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 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**.



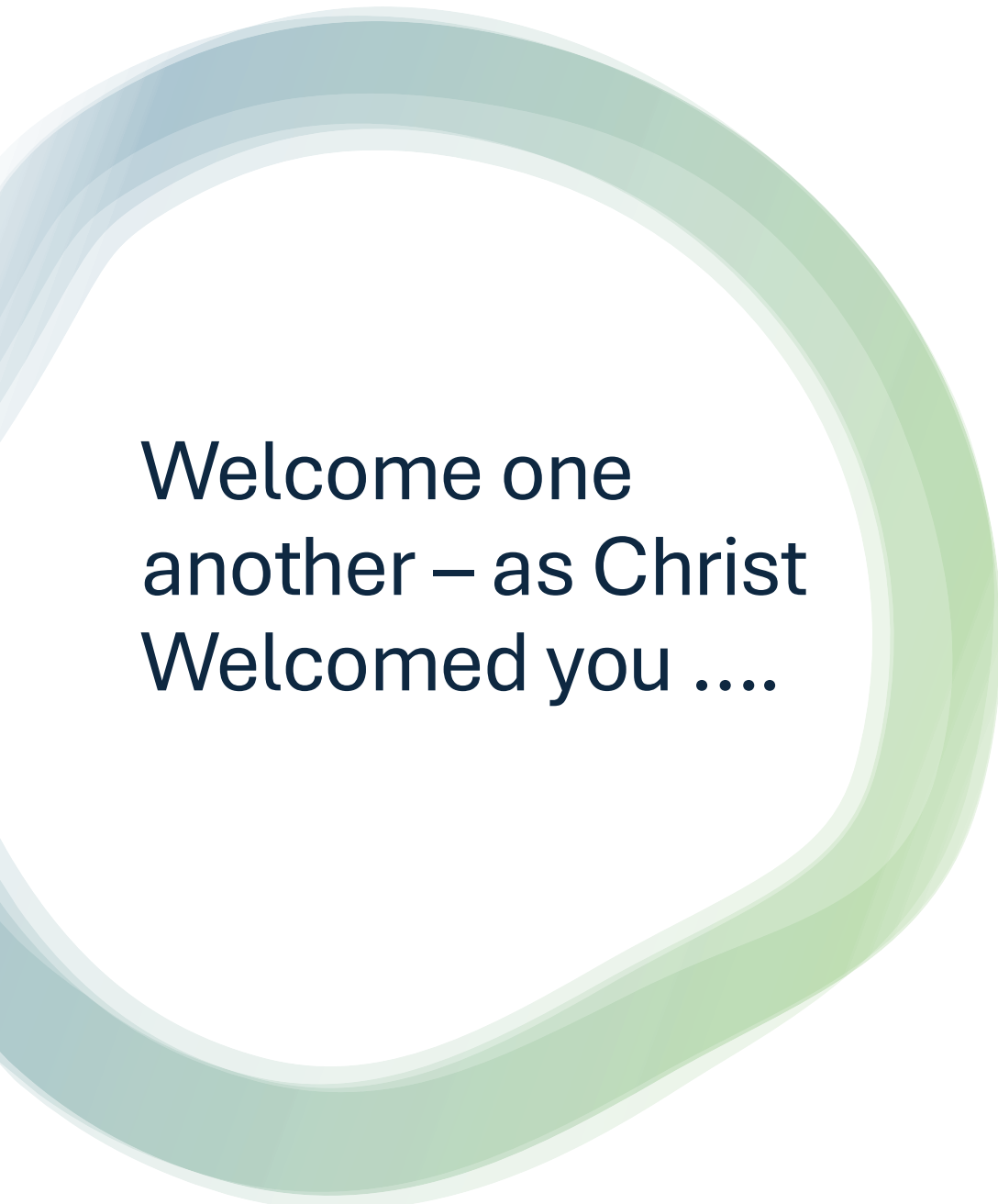
Joined Together



Accept One Another

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such **harmony** with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore **welcome one another as** Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.





Welcome one
another – as Christ
Welcomed you

How did Christ Welcome us??

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while **we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

James 2:1 ff (MSG) - Partiality

My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted?



Able to Instruct - (Admonish) Romans 15:14

I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can **teach** each other all about them. NLT.

And concerning you, my brothers and sisters, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to **admonish** one another. NASB

Principles of Warning....

In Love...- what is the
motive -

With tears

Not in public. - unless the
sin is in public....

Holy Kiss

The **holy kiss** is an ancient traditional Christian greeting, also called the **kiss of peace** or **kiss of charity**, and sometimes the "brother kiss" (among men), or the "sister kiss" (among women). Such greetings signify a wish and blessing that peace be with the recipient, and besides their spontaneous uses they have certain ritualized or formalized uses long established in Christian liturgy.



Gather for Others – Living in Community. Application ...

1. Have you ever been challenged to accept someone (in church) different from you? How did you get on? What was the cause of the difference? (age, status, etc..)
2. Has someone ever taken you aside and had a “chat” to help you?- Did it help?- Did they do it in love or did you feel judged in a condemning way..?
3. Have you seen your attitude to other believers change? – Do you like them more now?!
4. Has anything in the talk struck or surprised you - will you do anything different after today?
5. Which aspect of church do you most identify with? – (Army, Body, flock, temple, city....) ...