

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

## **1 Samuel 18:1-4**

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup> From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. <sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

## **Acts 2:42-47**

### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### **The Church - Encourages (1 Samuel 18:1-4)**

**15-Jan-2023**

G'Day Church Family

Please have your Bibles in front of you – we'll be looking at both Bible passages – from **1 Samuel 18:1-4 and Acts 2:42-47**.

There's the usual **outline** for you to **take notes** – if that helps you **concentrate**.

Let me ask **God** for His **help** and **guidance** first – let's **pray**...

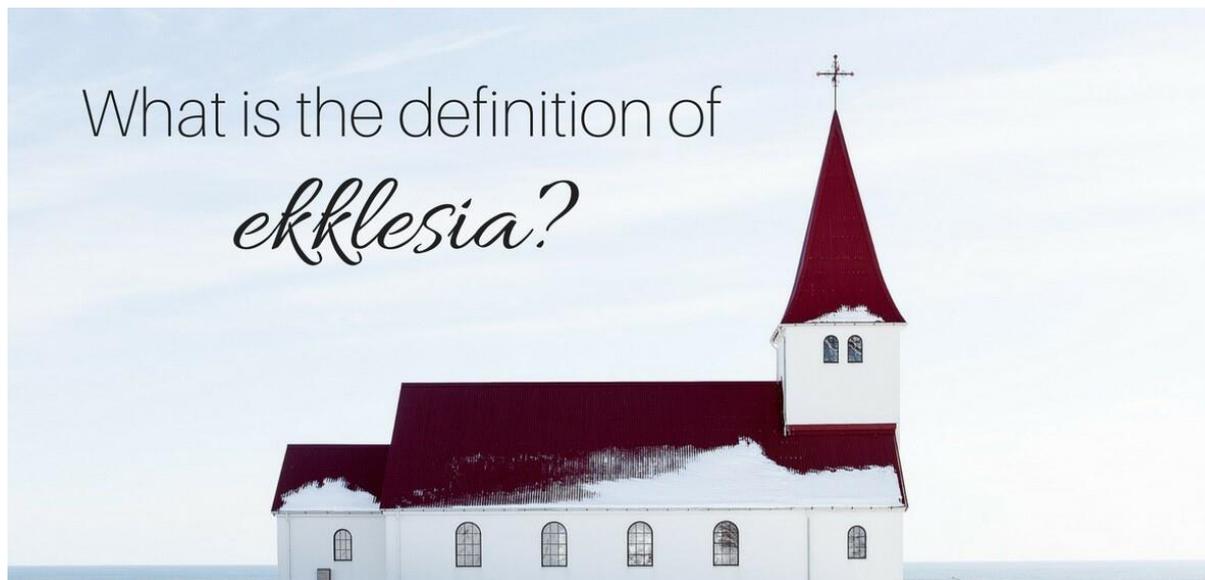
## Intro

This is the **third part** of **5-part series** on The **Church**

The Church

In Greek it is ἐκκλησία

[Slide 1-Ekklesia definition]



**Ekklesia** the church is not a **building** – Ekklesia the **church is:**

A gathering of people “**called out**” from their homes into some public place – or assembly.

The Ekklesia – the Church is:

- An **assembly** of Christians gathered together to worship God – and who believe in our Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life
- The Ekklesia – the Church – is the **whole body of Christians** – scattered throughout the world – aka the **universal church**

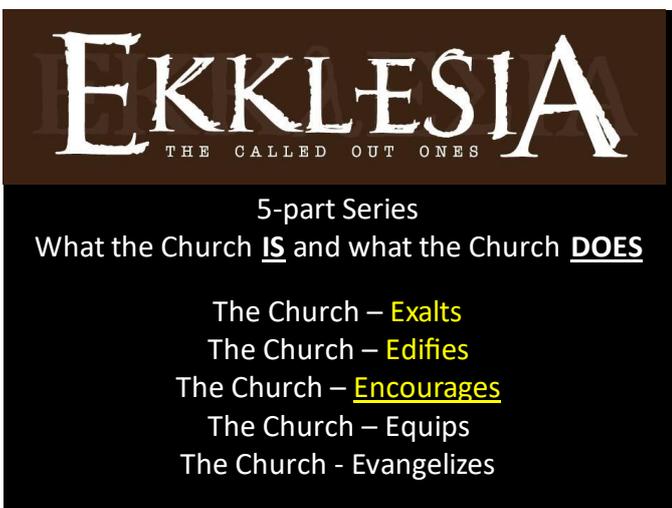
[Slide 2-Called out ones]

# EKKLESIA

THE CALLED OUT ONES

In essence the **Ekklesia** – the **church** – are the “*called out ones*” – called to worship God and follow Jesus.

[Slide 2a-5 e’s]



**EKKLESIA**  
THE CALLED OUT ONES

5-part Series  
What the Church **IS** and what the Church **DOES**

- The Church – **Exalts**
- The Church – **Edifies**
- The Church – **Encourages**
- The Church – **Equips**
- The Church - **Evangelizes**

In this 5-part series we will see how the Church - exalts, edifies, encourages, equips and evangelizes.

In **Part 1** – we saw that - The Church – **EXALTS** God –

In other words, we as the Church – should be **putting God on the highest pedestal** – and **speaking as highly as we can** about God

**And we left ourselves - - - with the challenge or new year resolution**

**To personally exalt** God – **thanking Him daily** – **talking to Him daily** - **singing His praises daily** – **and talking about how great He is daily?**

(pause)

In **Part 2** – last week – we saw how - The Church –the Ekklesia - **EDIFIES** – the **family of God – the Church Family**

In New Testament Greek – edify – [οικοδομέω]

Literally means to build a house

And we said - just like building a house – needs a strong foundation –

The house of Christian believers needs a strong foundation too

And we concluded last week that – that this strong foundation was God's Word – the **Bible** – and that here at **St. David's** the church has **several different Bible study groups** – where we can be edified by God's Word.

And by being edified by God's Word - we **can** then **perform the remaining 3 functions of the church** – to **encourage, equip** and **evangelize** people.

Which brings us to this week –and **Part 3** – and we're looking at how the church encourages people

For the church to be able to encourage people – it might seem pretty obvious – but people have to be - together – and they have to have - fellowship.

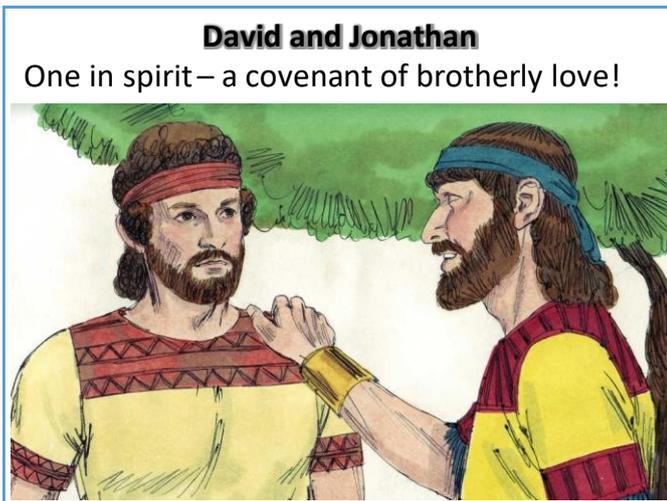
In the New Testament the Greek words used for together – literally means – *“people being on top of themselves”* – it suggests a very close relationship – and togetherness!

## Old Testament Example of Friendship – Jonathan & David (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

An example of this very close relationship and togetherness – can be seen in our **Old Testament Reading** – from 1 Samuel 18:1-4 [[Please turn there now](#)]

Here we have the **friendship between Jonathan and David**.

[Slide 3-Jonathan and David]



**Jonathan** was the **son** of the first King of Israel – King **Saul**

**Jonathan** was a lot like David. They were approximately the **same age**. They both were **bold**, both were **men of great trust in God**, and both were **men of action**. Most of all, both had a **real relationship with God**.

At the same time, **Jonathan** and **David** were different.

**Jonathan** was the **first-born** son of a king (1 Chronicles 9:39) and **David** was the **last-born** son of a farmer.

Being first born - Jonathan was **more than a prince**, he was the **crown prince**. By everyone's expectation **Jonathan** would be the next king of Israel.

The **context** is – **David** has just defeated the giant **Goliath** – and has **impressed King Saul**.

**Jonathan witnessed how David defeated Goliath – and heard how David attributed his success in defeating Goliath – down to God – God won the battle for him.**

So - Jonathan knew David had the **same heart for God** – as Jonathan himself had.

That's why v1 says – *Jonathan became one in spirit with David.* – “one spirit” here – literally means “knitted or sewn together”

Their friendship – had the **foundation** of their love for God – and **bridged their different family backgrounds and their different circumstances.**

Even when later – David was anointed to be the next King – rather than Jonathan – and even when Jonathan's father **Saul – tried to kill David several times – and David had to go on the run – Jonathan and David's friendship – was **able to survive all of that – because they were one in the Lord****

And as v3 says – *Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.*

**Jonathan and David shared a brotherly love with each other** – and Jonathan even shared his clothing and weapons with David – see v4.

### [Slide 4-Church Family]



**Jesus says:**  
Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.  
(Mark 34:35)

**Jesus says:**  
My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life. (John 6:40)

Our Church Family

Application – Here in our church family – **we are “knitted or sewn together” in our common bond of loving our Lord Jesus** – and so we are one in Spirit too.

Here at St. David’s – we major on this idea of our Church – **being a Church Family** – that’s not my idea – it’s actually what Jesus Himself says

In Mark 3 – Jesus was informed that his mother and brothers were looking for Him (Mark 3:32)

Jesus asked a rhetorical question – *Who are my mother and my brothers? (Mark 3:33)*

Then Jesus answered His own question – and pointed to all the people listening to Him – and said - *“Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”* (Mark 3:34-35)

And what is God’s will for people?

Jesus tells us in John 6:40 – *“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”*

That common bond of believing in Jesus’ death for the forgiveness of our sins and believing in Jesus’ resurrection for eternal life – is the **common bond** – we share – and **means we are FAMILY** – and we can show that same love Jesus has shown us – **we can show that same love** - to each other in our church family.  
Just like Jonathan and David – our love for each other – **can transcend our backgrounds, our circumstances and our problems.**

**The Church – The Ekklesia - Encourages (Acts 2:42-47)**

Which brings us to our NT reading from **Acts 2:42-47** [Please turn there now]

It’s the same reading we have had for the last 3 weeks.

[Slide 5-Acts 2:42-47]

And we are only looking at the parts of this passage which talk about how the Church encourages

See v42 – *They devoted themselves to fellowship*

And v44 & 46 - <sup>44</sup> *All the believers were together ... <sup>46</sup> ... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ...*

(pause)

The Greek Word for **fellowship** is **koi-no-nia**

[Slide 6-Koinonia]



**Koi-no-nia** - means a **shared community** – and involves **deep, close-knit participation** among people.

It's far deeper than our English Word – **fellowship**.

Sometimes fellowship can be just friendly surface-level relationships – but koi-no-nia is intimate holy unity with each other – at a spiritual and emotional level – just like Jonathan and David were knitted together.

Our passage from Acts 2 says the Church – the Ekklesia – were **together** in v44 – AND – they had **a meal together** and **ate together with glad and sincere hearts** – v46.

If we think about it – isn't that what families do?

The most intimate and happy times in my own family – are when we get together for a BBQ or a meal or a picnic – and we have deep and loving conversations!

### How can we at St. David's be encouraged?

So, if the early church – the Ekklesia – encouraged each other by enjoying koinonia fellowship together – and Jesus says we're family

How can our Church Family here at St. David's be encouraged?

There are **several ways we can be encouraged:**

[Slide-7- St. David's]

1<sup>st</sup> – By making St. David's OUR church family – by committing to being part of this Church Family. Here at St. David's, we run regular **Membership classes** – where we talk about our common bond and love for Jesus – and talk about how the Presbyterian Church is governed.

If you haven't already done so – how about committing to become a member of our church family – and making St. David's your permanent Church Family.

There's a **sign-up sheet** in the foyer if you'd like **to attend the next membership class.**

I visited Joan Golding in hospital the other day – she said attending Church – for her - is like coming home! It's her spiritual home and family.

2<sup>nd</sup> – We can be encouraged as we join together each Sunday for worship. We certainly are encouraged by God's Word, by the prayers, by the hymns and the

testimonies we've heard. But worship is only the 1<sup>st</sup> part of our time together – as I often say – part 2 of our time together – **is morning tea in the Hall** – where we can be just like the early church – and **have a meal together** – and have **healthy loving sincere and caring conversations together**. Get to know each other better as a family. Sharing our concerns and trials with one another – and **spurring one another on!**

[There's no better sound on Sunday – that sitting outside the Church Hall – listening to people chatting away and laughing]

3<sup>rd</sup> – We can also be encouraged by our communal lunches we have – 3 times a year in – on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of April, August and December – on the same day we also have the **Lord's Supper**. Which in itself is a **great encouragement** as it reminds us of what our Lord Jesus has done for us!

4<sup>th</sup> – **Encouragement** does not have to be **confined to Sundays**

There are a **number of other activities** we do **on other days of the week** which can be an encouragement to us.

- Prayer – and Prayer Chain [looked after by Christine Warrell)
- Growth Groups/Bible Studies – that we mentioned last week – sign-up sheets in the foyer.
- Phone calls
- Home visits
- Hospital visits
- Aged Care visits

- Men's fellowship – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month (Feb-Dec) – see Ian Warrell
- P.W.A. – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month (Feb-Dec) – various events – calendar available – see notice board in the hall with all the events!
- COM – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month (Feb-Dec) – nomination forms in the foyer
- Working Bee – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month (Feb- Dec) – see Zelka
- Craft and Card Group – Every Wednesday (Feb-Dec) – see Heather
- Friendship Group – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month (Feb-Dec) – see Judy Roberts
- Saturday Movies – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month – see Malcolm
- St. David's Choir – Thursday choir practice (Feb-Dec) – talk to Chris Smillie
- Church events throughout the year – see calendar in foyer
- And Pastoral Care [more about this next week]

All of these activities **foster and nurture friendships** and **are a constant source of encouragement** – and **help us to feel we belong to a Church Family** that has the common bond of Jesus.

### Conclusion (Hebrews 10:24-25)

To finish up then ...

We can only feel like we belong

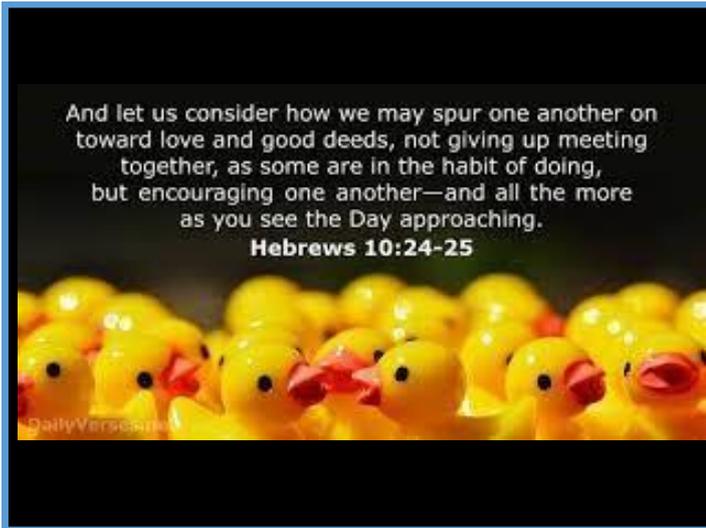
We can only feel like we are part of a church family

We can only feel encouraged

If we actually - turn up and participate - in what our church has to offer

So let me leave us with a reminder from the writer of Hebrews

## [Slide 8-Hebrews 10:24-25]

**From Hebrews 10:24-25**

*<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Let's pray...

*Heavenly Father, thank you that because of our Lord Jesus, we are part of His Church and we are part of a Church Family.*

*Thank you that Jesus has established His Church as a means of encouraging one another – as we wait for Jesus to return.*

*Help us to be diligent and intentional in meeting together – in the many different ways – our church offers – so that we can spur one another on towards love and good deeds – so that we can show the love of Jesus to others.*

*Help us to continue to meet up and encourage each other – in the name of Jesus.*

*Amen!*