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There is nothing like the local church when it's working right. It's beauty is indescribable. It's power is breathtaking. It's potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens it arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness... The potential of the local church is almost more that I can grasp. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close.

Bill Hybels



<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:10-11

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

## Romans 8:14-21

To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as the portion you will inherit."

<sup>12</sup> When they were but few in number,  
few indeed, and strangers in it,

<sup>13</sup> they wandered from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another.

<sup>14</sup> He allowed no one to oppress them;  
for their sake he rebuked kings:

<sup>15</sup> "Do not touch my anointed ones;  
do my prophets no harm."

## Psalm 105

<sup>1</sup> Give praise to the LORD, call on his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.

<sup>2</sup> Sing of him, sing his praises;  
tell of all his wonderful acts.

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> Look to the LORD and his strength;  
seek his face always.

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

He is the LORD our God

## Psalm 105

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Ephesians 3:10-11

# ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

WE ARE A FAMILY

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## ROMANS 8

# FAMILY BY BLOOD

# A COMMON FUTURE

# A COMMON COMFORT

# A COMMON SPIRIT

<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 favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## ACTS 2

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BE KNOWN

BE CHALLENGED

BE PRESENT

BE PERMANENT