



6 “E’s”

OF THE
CHURCH

The Ekklesia (“Church”) is not a building but:

Everyone who has put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation universally, who gather locally, to **exalt** Christ, **equip** and **empower** believers, and then scatter to **evangelize** and live out the gospel while by **engaging** the world.

Equipping primarily involves proclaiming and explaining God's word. We grow spiritually by taking the truth of God's word, His promises and **acting on them.**

It also involves:

- Current events, with Biblical commentary
- Conferences, events, other activities
- Helping you learn how to study the Bible

As followers of Christ, you have a ministry here at GraceLife! You may not know what that is now, but my desire is that God will help you learn where you “fit in” here.



Part 4

***EMPOWERING
BELIEVERS***

Empowering

To give authority to; to delegate power to; to commission; to authorize (having commonly a legal force)... or, to give moral or physical power, faculties, or abilities to.”

Free Dictionary

A. Empowering Believers

First – this is helping you see yourself as a follower of Christ in all things.

Second – it is helping you see your role in the body of Christ and also in the world as a follower of Jesus, as a Christian.

Third – this is where membership comes in.

A. Empowering Believers

At the end of this series on April 29, Lord willing, everyone will come in here, and we will have an official commitment to membership for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and have been Biblically baptized after conversion.

A. Empowering Believers

Constitution and Bylaws, P. 8

Join by:

- Baptism, if one has not been baptized**
- Public testimony**
- Restoration for those who have been excluded from membership upon evidence of repentance.**
- Vote by the congregation for future members**

A. Empowering Believers

It also includes exhorting and encouraging.

These are truths all based in Scripture, that I want us to remember...

Philippians 4:2

I entreat [exhort] Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 [NASB]

Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you **ought to walk and please God** (just as you actually do walk), that you **excel still more**.

We should strive to become stronger in our faith, closer in our relationship with the Lord, bolder in our witness and deeper in our love for Jesus and each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

And we urge you, brothers, **admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.**

Admonish – warn, counsel, exhort the lazy

Encourage – comfort, console those still developing their identity or spiritually underdeveloped

Help – to hold firmly, hold to or cleave to the weak

Be patient – with everyone

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we **command and encourage** in the Lord Jesus Christ to **do their work quietly and to earn their own living**.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I **urge** that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

2 Timothy 4:1-2

I **charge** you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His Kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and **exhort**, with complete patience and teaching.

Titus 2:15

Declare these things; **exhort** and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Hebrews 3:13-14

But **exhort** one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

- This was said within the context of one of the warning passages in Hebrews.

1 Peter 5:1-5

So I **exhort the elders** among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:1-5

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

The word translated “*exhort*” in *1:1* is “*parakaleo*” and has the idea of a legal representative in a court.

It combines exhorting, comforting and encouraging.