

THE *OIKOS* HOUSEHOLD PLAN OF SALVATION



33 pages

INTRODUCTION

This discussion is based upon the monumental work by Joachim Jeremias (1960) Professor of Theology University of Gottingen, Germany first published in English 1960, entitled "Infant Baptism in the First Four Centuries"

He proves that the New Covenant establishes **the *oikos* formula for salvation, found in Acts 16:31-34**

" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your household (oikos) will be saved. Then they (Paul and Silas) spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house(oikos). And he (the gaoler) took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptised. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household (oikos) "

His findings present an irrefutable justification of the practice of infant baptism in the *oikos* (household). Joachim Jeremias based his research upon, archeology, anthropology, historical records and careful analysis of the New Covenant scriptures. His scholarship is exemplary – his findings, profound and revolutionary. Revolutionary, because he places the context of infant baptisms not in the church but the *oikos*. To the best of my knowledge, the implications of the scholarly world's attention has gone unnoticed for two basic reasons: (1) the basic division in opinion on infant baptism; (2) scholars are usually associated with The Church system - The Doctrine of The Church is universally accepted and can be regarded as a "sacred cow" that is unchallengeable, a mighty fortress for men which shackles minds!

This discussion and explores some of the implications of the *oikos* to our Christian lives today, then challenges the Doctrine of The Church.

PART 1

Discussion of the Christian *oikos* follows with a diagrammatic presentation with commentary on the relationship between the *oikos* and *ekklesia* .

PART 2

The proof arguing the case for replacing The Church with the Christian *oikos* and *ekklesia* ends the discussion.

PART 1

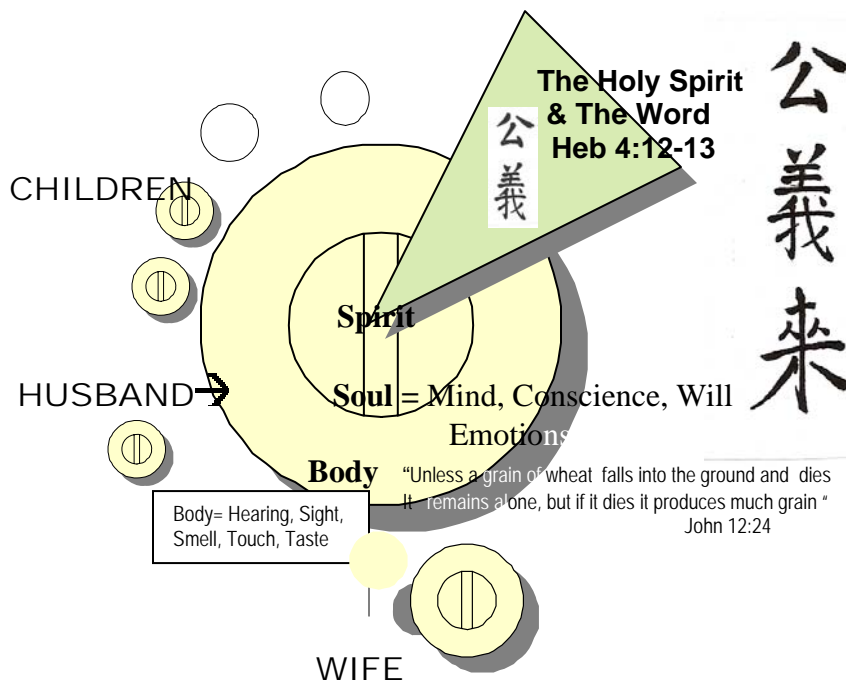
The Christian *oikos* (household) and *ekklesia* (the 'called-out ones')

Diagram 1

The CHRIST-CENTERED SPIRITUAL MAN & HIS OIKOS (Household)

1 Cor 2: 15, Ps 51: 17, Acts 16:31, 1 Cor 11:3, Eph 5:25, 22- 6:18

Repentant Sinner –broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart
Ps 51:17, as a grain of Wheat Jo 12:24 .
Holy-Spirit filled and led submitted life Ro8:1,14. Daily offering
as a living sacrifice Ro12:1-2, and daily taking up Cross Lk 9:23
Head of Household Christ-Man as Prophet, Priest, & King



RIGHTEOUSNESS

'GOONG' ^{Eight} World

'YEE' ^{Lamb} Me

'LOY' ^{Two Thieves} Jesus
On Three
Crosses
COME FOLLOW ME
CARRY YOUR OWN
CROSS

For explanation read
discussion "The
Three Most Important
Chinese Words"
www.kiwibamboo.co.nz

THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH – The OIKOS

Acts 16:31 " Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you and your household.

Largest circle = is Man, Husband and Father totally submitted to Christ and head of his own household as Prophet (speaking, teaching God's live-giving words to his family), Priest (a shepherd to his family catering for their every need), and King (providing for their every need and giving temporal and spiritual protection). The Holy Spirit, via the cutting Word of God (**Triangle**) Hebrews 4:12-13 meets with the Man's spirit, controls this man, and leads him Ro 8:1,14. His mind is renewed everyday as he offers himself everyday as a living sacrifice Ro 12:1-2 , and his mind, conscience, and will brought into obedience to the mind of Christ 2 Corinthians 10:5 . Agape, God's sacrificial love abounds in this family. Their household is a Light to the world around them. Man and woman are bound to God as a three strand cord Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

Second largest circle = is the man's wife who submits to her husband and conforms to his ways as helpmate and companion 1 Peter 3: 1- 7 , Ephesians 5: 22-23, 1 Corinthians 11:7, Genesis 2:18

Three small (Yellow) circles = children who obey their parents - are discipled and trained . Eph.6:1-4

smallest blank circles = servant(s) or other family member(s) of the household Ephesians 6: 5-9

The *Oikos* – A Model of Submission

**“ Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,
you, and your household. ”**

Acts 16:31

Diagram 1 on page 2 summarises the individual's relationship with our Heavenly Godhead. Usually, an individual belongs to an *oikos* or household. According to Joachim Jeremias it is a Christian *oikos* that is the centre of God's plan of salvation - salvation by households **Acts 16:31**. It is not The Church. Submission implies control of one by another who submits to the control. Here it means that the *oikos* and its members submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, via the man as head of household (or his spouse if the man has “fallen asleep” – i.e. died, as in the case of Lydia **Acts 16: 11-15**).

Individuals are very important as they are nurtured in an *oikos*, the family. The family may be: a **complete nuclear** one with father, mother, and children; a **broken nuclear** one where one of the spouse is missing through death or divorce, or in an extreme case where both parents have gone because of death; and, an **extended family** where the grandparents from either the mother's side or father's side are living with the nuclear unit, and it may include anyone else who is living in the household. The importance of the extended family is seen in Timothy's faith, which is attributed by Paul mainly to the nurturing of his grandmother Lois and to his mother Eunice. **2 Timothy 1:5**.

Each individual member of the Christian household are “born again” – symbolised in the diagram with the Green triangle which cuts through the body and soul penetrating into the Spirit of man. (either via repentance or by obedience to parents who have become “born again” – based on the *oikos* formula where all are baptised). The “born again” experience involves the following three submission Baptisms of Jesus Christ, in the **context of repentance** (see Acts 2: 37 when the word of God is spoken under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the words “cuts” the men's hearts) .

Matthew 3:11. “I indeed baptise you with (or “in”) water unto repentance, but He is coming who is coming after me (John the Baptist) is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry, He will baptise you with (in) the Holy Spirit, and fire.”

Baptism in Jesus the Christ in Water by full immersion, (by participation in His death we show that we die to ourselves) **Luke 3:1-19, Romans 6: 1-14**. The Baptism of John unto repentance was not enough for the Ephesians, so the 12 men or so were rebaptised into Jesus the Christ, by Paul, after which he laid hands on them for the Holy Spirit's baptism. . The implication here is that if you were baptised incorrectly you may well have to have it done the right name! **Acts 19:1-7**

Baptism in Jesus the Christ in The Holy Spirit, for control by the Spirit , involves walking in the Spirit daily, 24/7 (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Just as we are covered completely by water, so we are completely covered by The Holy Spirit so that He can take total control of us)

Baptism in Jesus the Christ in Fire for Holiness which involves being led by The Holy Spirit, and continually walking in The Spirit. **Romans 8: 14**, in exactly the same way (but 'spiritually and being persecuted for righteousness' sake) that Daniel was put into the oven! . This is a walk to **Holiness , a purifying walk**. As we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit we will meet intense opposition and persecution from family, loved ones, friends and community. This is when we really "cut our teeth " on our own Calvary Road.

The over-emphasis on individuals by Western civilisation together with the pre-eminence of the Church as the primary socialization agency of new converts, has resulted in the neglect of the household (*oikos*) and the failure of evangelical and Pentecostals to incorporate infants in baptism insisting that they must become Christians through repentance themselves. Household salvation is rejected outright with few exceptions.

Neglect of the household as the primary nurturing institution also makes it difficult to accept that the Godhead. wants to establish His home in our body, the temple of The Holy Spirit into a conceptual model, and in our own households. The Church is the centre, so commonly taught.

" If anyone loves [agapes] Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love [agape] him, and We will come to him and make Our home with (in) him" John 14:23.

He lives in each one of us to create the home environment within us so that we can create a God-ordained home environment with our own family home. He wants us to have and to replicate the amazing, intimate fellowship which exists in the Godhead between Father , Son, and The Holy Spirit. Perfect harmony. **1 John 1: 1-8 Psalm 133.**

There can be such harmony if each person in the household is in tune with the Godhead. Note that Residency by the Godhead is dependent upon *agape* in action (God's sacrificial love which comes only from Him). Where there is unity God commands a blessing (that is to be filled with the very person of the Jesus Christ – this is discussed in depth in "The Beatitudes". Kiwibamboo.co.nz web site, then click into Kiwibamboo News).

What greater blessing can there be than to have a Father become a Christian? Then, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit the *oikos* formula, his whole household, who accept his authority, become believers and are baptised together! Acts 16: 31 is pivotal as an example of this thought and practice in the New covenant in the period covered by Acts of the apostles, and in the first century.

The cutting of the heart - repentance

The **green triangle** is representative of the sword of the Spirit of God which is the word of God. Unless a man or woman is convicted of sin and repents, he cannot receive things of and from the Holy Spirit

“ But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.: who were born not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.: ” John 1:12-13

How many actually met these requirements at their own baptism into the church?

The cutting, piercing of the heart is an action solely from and by The Holy Spirit. **Hebrews 4:12-13**. It happens to reveal how grossly evil our heart is to reveal our sins, and then to reveal and remove the creatures within **Hebrews 4:13** through repentance.

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. ” Hebrews 4: 12-13.

“ The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. ” Jeremiah 17: 9-10

“ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man,... ” Matthew 15: 19-20a

“ Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are [self] evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God ” Galatians 5:16-21

Unless the **grain of wheat** is placed in the ground and dies it cannot bear much fruit! **John 12:24**. The call to repent was thundered out into the world by John the Baptist **Matthew 3:2**. The Jews flocked to the baptismal waters of the Jordan River, repenting. Jesus Christ picked-up the call **Matthew 4: 17**, and then at the

Pentecostal outpouring of The Holy spirit, Peter speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, continued on with the same message of repentance. **Acts 2: 37-39** And, unsurprisingly, with the same effects – revival !

The Holy Spirit's words cut through the physical man (his body, with its demand to feed the flesh desires), penetrating his soul (to take over his emotions, will and intellect) to reach into the inner most person, the spirit person. This can be done only by the will of God, not the will of self or any man **John 1:13**. The end result is a total takeover by God to duplicate His life in a person.

We have the will power to stop this at any time! We also have the will to surrender to His Spirit at anytime, all the time! The Holy Spirit longs to make us holy like He is. He leads us to Jesus Christ. If we uplift Jesus, He will draw us to Himself!

The Christian *Oikos* is where we find :

(1) **Jesus Christ**. The Head of each household is Christ [Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, 1 Corinthians 7, 1 Peter 3]. There is no scripture which says Jesus the Christ is head of the Church – scripture says *Ekklesia*!

Christ's spirit, The Holy Spirit, reigns supreme in all, in the household.

He is **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sins of the world (including the individual and the household). We need to humble ourselves and confess our sins so that all **unrighteousness** is blotted out by His shed **Blood**. **1 John 1:7-9**

He is The King of Kings and Lord of Lords to be revealed at His Second Coming at the *parousia* **Revelations 19: 16**.

The **Chinese Words** for righteousness “Goong Yee” are very prominent on the right hand side of the diagram. They brilliantly summarise the key thoughts. The Lamb sits above the pictogram Me. The Lamb covers me. The word for Lamb is also the word for King. Now isn't this clever? – the Lamb of God covers me – I kneel humbly under Him as His slave, controlled by Him. His shed blood cleanses me. So I am made righteous by His grace. I also discover that He is my King and I am in His kingdom protected by my King. My household is saved with me. (for an in-depth discussion visit website: Kiwibamboo.co.nz, click into Kiwibamboo News and scroll to discussion entitled “The Three Most Important Chinese Words”. This is also available in pdf format in Old Chinese Script (‘Farn Tay’), as distinct from the modern Chinese script common in China).

(2) **The Man**. Under our resurrected and ascended Lord Jesus Christ is the man/ husband who must be the head of his household, Men have their natural spiritual gifts, but are The Prophet, The Priest, The King of their own homes under The Holy Spirit's guidance. The husband is a reflector of God's glory, and his wife reflects his glory in a “trickle effect”.

“ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God ” 1 Corinthians 11:3

“ For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man ” 1 Corinthians 11: 7

The husband must agape her as a command from the Lord, just as Jesus Christ agaped Himself for the Ekklesia (the called out ones). **Ephesians 5, Colossians 3: 18-23, 1John 3:16. 1 Peter 3: 1-7.**

Agaping involves offering himself totally to enfold his wife with himself in the same way that God our Father enfolds us with Agape, willing always to give of His best, most beloved. Agape is sacrificial love with the shedding of blood to seal a the covenant It is loving until it hurts. It is all-embracing, always forgiving. always caring for the weaker one, honouring her. This message is hammered home into the husband as the word agape is mentioned 5 times in Ephesians 5: 25-33 (something like the nails hammered into Christ’s hands and feet on The Cross).Get the picture?

His much loved wife will say words to this effect in her heart and declare with her mouth

” My beloved is mine and I am His and His banner over me is love” Song of Solomon 6:3

“ I am my beloved’s And his desire is toward me. Come my beloved..” Song of Solomon 7:10-11a

Here is the acid test for the spiritual life of every man – his wife. How happy is she? How well does she respond to you? Does she submit to you happily? How tenderly do you love (*agape*) her?

In the Chinese words, The man is seen in the pictogram for Me – the picture of a “killing machine”. “Me is made-up of two words. On the LHS a small dagger, and on the RHS a spear – two killing instruments. As the word “Me” is directly under the pictogram “Lamb” (and King) the “Me” or man is kneeling or under, no longer undisciplined. Man is now a disciple with bent knees signifying a repentant heart, Kowtowing under The Lamb, The King. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all **unrighteousness**, making a man **righteous when he confesses his sins with his mouth.** **1 John 1: 7-9.**

The man receives glory from God by his submission to the Lord Jesus the Christ. within the context of the Spirit of God and His agape **1 Corinthians 11:4a, Ephesians 5: 18 and 22-33.**

(3) **The Wife.** Under the man is his submitted wife, who must obey her husband, as she submits to the Lord and then to her husband and wife are submitted one to another. The wife is both helpmate and companion to her husband. **Genesis 2:18** Is her conduct chaste and expresses fear of the Lord? Is her beauty an inner one or does she “dress-up to kill” ? Does she have a gentle and quiet spirit? Is her life a living testimony of God’s abundant grace? **1 Peter 3: 1-5.**

This commandment of submission is probably as controversial to day as it was in the liberal period of Greek thinking of Jesus Christ’s day. God’s message to us message is relevant – it is His word which is eternal. .

The example of Lydia in Acts 16 reveals that in a single parent family, the Head may be a woman. Presumably, her husband fell asleep (in the New Covenant, disciples do not die, they fall asleep).

The wife receives her glory from God by submission to her husband as unto Jesus the Christ within the same context of her husband (Spirit and agape).
1 Corinthians 11:4b , Ephesians 5: 22-23

(4) **The Children.** Children obey their parents and the husband has to train his children (as in disciple). **Ephesians 6:1-4, Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6 :1-9**

(5) **The Servants (*doulos* - slaves)** serve the household as unto Christ and are included in the *oikos* salvation formula.

Slaves are especially mentioned for all Christians are under Christ as His slaves (*doulos*) **Romans 6: 16-20.** The Holy Spirit leads and controls such a household, and all agape the Lord God with all their minds, hearts, souls and strength. Worshipping Him everyday (24/7) as living sacrifices **Romans 12:1-2**, carrying their own Calvary Crosses every day **Luke 9:23; Matthew 10:38**

Picture a round table – all in the family are equidistant, but dad and mum are obviously the heads (she is the “executive director” , he is the Managing Director responsible to Jesus The Christ).

(6) Everyone in The *Oikos* or Household. .Others living in The Household or who like to be associated a particular household are also included as they also submit to the man’s authority. Acts 10: 48; 16:31 -32. A man’s brothers and sisters, mum and dad, are those who follow Jesus the Christ – “*whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother.*” **Matthew 12:46-50, verse 50**

HOW THE *OIKOS* WORKS

The healthy society must have strong households. Conversely, a sick society will have sick households.

A man is responsible for his own household – for everything. Shelter, warmth, clothing, education, physical, emotional and psychological well being, and most important of all, for the spiritual welfare to get everyone into Heaven, and keeping all on the Calvary track! He has a helpmate and companion – his wife to assist him to achieve this **Genesis 2:18**.

The first and most important mission for a husband and wife is to “evangelise” their own children – to nurture them in the fullness of God’s grace. This is done by disciplining and by discipling. Discipling is training a child, a person, on a one-to-one basis **Proverbs 22:6**. until they get used to a pattern of behaviour and thinking. Children copy and imitate their parents – they adopt their patterns of thinking, mannerisms, and behaviour. They imitate precisely. It is therefore paramount that parents get their lives, thinking patterns, and attitudes right before God our heavenly Father. This is ongoing until such time as the children marry and leave the family *oikos* and establish their own *oikos*.

Home is where the heart is. We must set our own houses in order **1 Peter 4:17**. It is in the home that children learn ways of wisdom and gentleness, loving, security, looking after themselves, cooking, home making, house maintenance, getting on with others, being helpful and useful to, diligence, honesty. The list is endless. Most important of all the lessons of how God’s patterns of thoughts impact on how we live in the local community, society and the world – how He is in control of each and every life submitted to Him.

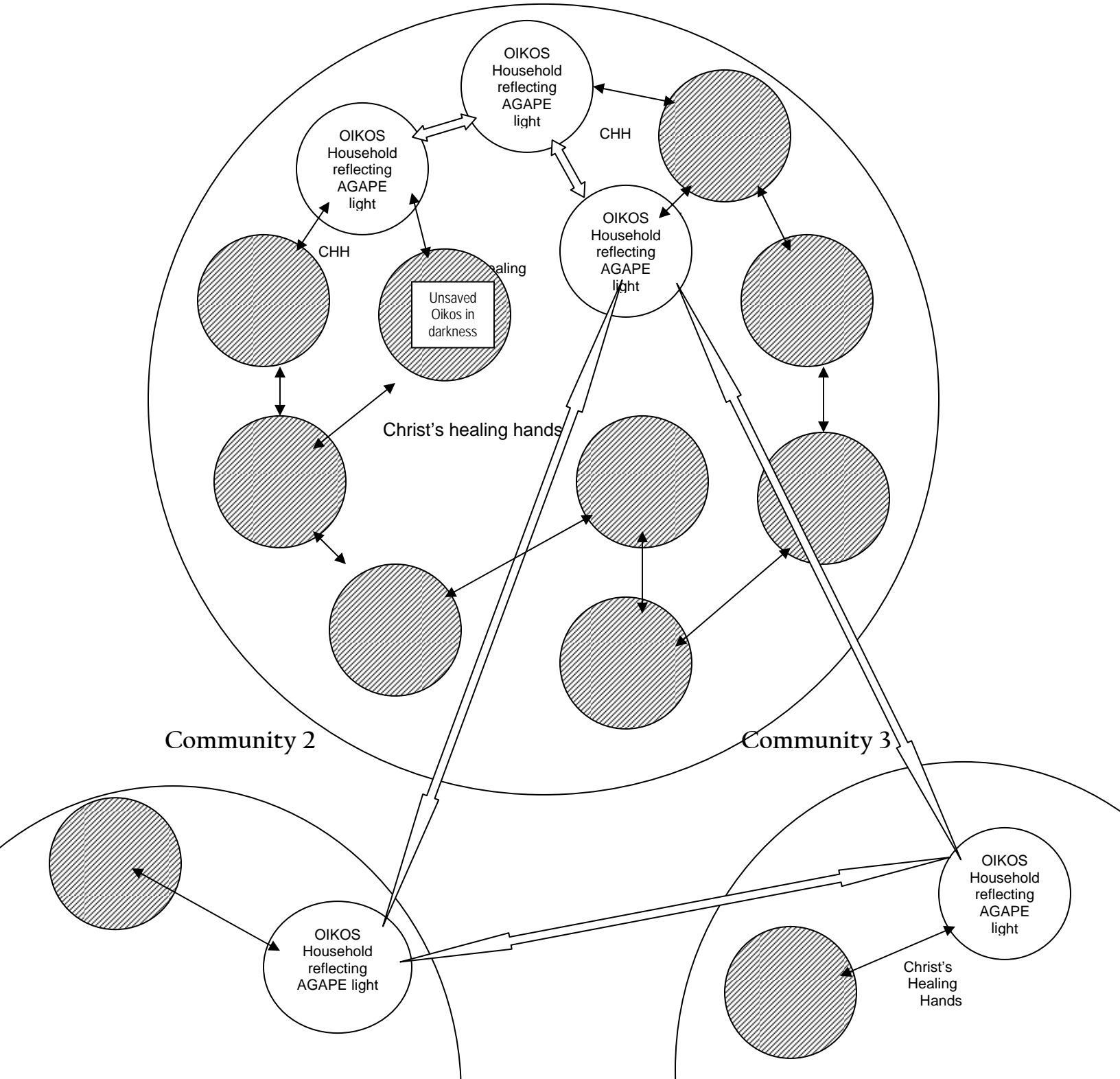
The home is the most important socialization institution common to all human societies. A child is socialized by the home into the family life, neighbourhood and human society, and into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The *oikos* reaches out to the neighbours and community. world around them, that is, immediate neighbourhood, as a “lighthouse” **Matthew 5:16**. Helping where help is needed as Christ’s hands. Discipling as The Holy Spirit leads **Matthew 28: 19-20** This is very natural, and an outcome of a beautiful relationship with the Triune Godhead. It all begins in the home, and from the home. After all, our Triune Godhead wills to inhabit our bodies, to make their home in our body, the temple of The Holy Spirit **John 14:23**.

What happens when one Christian *oikos* associates with another Christian *oikos*? This interaction is shown in **Diagram 2** following page.

Diagram 2

OIKOS + *OIKOS* [etc.] = *EKKLESIA* or called out (ones) The Bride of Christ
 HOUSEHOLD + HOUSEHOLD = A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OR KOINONIA –
 FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Community 1

Comments on diagram 2.

Reaching out to the unsaved *oikos*

It is the *oikos* which knows who needs help. If a mother is sick, then they can give practical help. Meals can be arranged. Children can be taken to school. Housework can be done. Neighbours can be alerted to help. A child can be transported to after school activities. If the husband falls ill, the men folk can step-up. The whole *oikos* can be involved to help another *oikos*.. When Christian *oikos* interact with other Christian *oikos* this forms the *ekklesia*. (*oikos* + *oikos* = *ekklesia*). The network of believing *oikos* can be mobilized as necessary. In this way we bear each other's burdens. We function as a "lighthouse" for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The opportunities are endless. The agape of the Lord is immediately effective.

In the first century the Gospel message was proclaimed by men as they were led by the Holy Spirit, by Jesus Christ Himself. The *oikos* and *ekklesia* suffered great persecution. The epicenter of the spiritual Tsunami of the outpouring of The Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was in Jerusalem. About 3,000 men repented of their sins and became believers. Thousands of others became followers of Jesus Christ. It was not until Saul (he became known as Paul) was converted that the gospel of Jesus Christ penetrated the gentile world. Whilst evangelists and apostles led by the Holy Spirit did the Spirit's work in laying the foundations, it was the scattered *oikos* which provided the home bases.

Christian *oikos* interacting with the Triune Godhead other Christian *oikos*.

Oikos & *Ekklesia* (called out [ones] of assembly) See Diagram 2 p.11

**"Where two or three are gathered together in My Name (Jesus Christ's)
I am there in the midst of them "** Matthew 18: 20

Individual + Individual + Individual = *Ekklesia*
Oikos* + *Oikos* + *Oikos* (2or3) = *Ekklesia

The *oikos* must primarily be interacting with the Truine Godhead, that is God The Father, God The Son Jesus the Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. They may also meet together, as led and directed by The Holy Spirit, with a few other *oikos* encouraging one another In prayer, study of God's words, encouraging one another in spiritual songs, hymns, songs, words of knowledge, tongues and interpretations, prophecies, teaching, testimonies etc – again, as the Spirit leads. As the *oikos* groupings grow each *oikos* may split into a local "community" or "congregation" or "fellowship", with natural leaders (men) , recognised by each *oikos* who meet the prerequisite qualifications 1 Timothy 3, Titus 5-9. Thus we have the *ekklesia* (meeting together of the called-out ones).

The shape, form, and meeting will happen as the Holy Spirit leads each *oikos*. The analogy is snow crystals – no two are the same, all are different patterns, but each one is beautiful. So, each *oikos* is unique and uniquely lead by the Holy Spirit. Corporately, each *oikos* forms the body of Christ, “the Bride of Christ” which is the *ekklesia*. **The *ekklesia* is not a human centrally organised organization or federation or institution. It is a spiritual body of Jesus the Christ.**

Small is beautiful and intimate. Matthew 18:15-20. This is the very essence of *Koinonia* or “fellowship” when the Holy Spirit is present.

“Many are called, few chosen” Matthew 20:13

He does the calling. We do the hearing, responding, obeying.

Jesus Christ only mentioned the word *ekklesia* three times: Once in Matthew 16 when He referred to the world-wide *ekklesia* which would be established upon Himself (not Peter as is erroneously taught – the rock refers to Jesus Christ) and twice in Matthew 18:17 where he talks about the restoration of a sinning brother and the procedures to reinstate fellowship with him (this can only happen in a very small and intimate group of believers who are bound together in agape love - God’s pure sacrificial love which can only come from Him). There are 106 references of the *ekklesia* by the Holy Spirit from Acts on (Young’s Concordance).

The *ekklesia* may meet together as The Holy Spirit leads in a big meeting of the *oikos* as and when appropriate as The Holy Spirit directs. The operative word is The Holy Spirit. The person who must do the drawing and direct the meeting is the Holy Spirit.

We can reasonably expect to find a profusion of *oikos* being led by the Holy Spirit but not in an organised manner. The manifestations of The Spirit in each *oikos* can be expected to be different, just as each snow crystal is an amazing but unique geometric. Each has a unique history and life experience. God is a God of variety. His mind is beyond our comprehension. Variety is therefore a “watermark” or seal of the Holy Spirit, not conformity, not uniformity.

***OIKOS* AND CHURCH**

The Christian *oikos* has Jesus as it’s head. Ephesians 5:22- 6: 9.

There is no scripture which tells us that Jesus Christ is the head of The Church. Scriptures use the word *Ekklesia*. "*Ekklesia*" is the word Church based scholars translate into "Church". But the word Church has a different meaning from *ekklesia*! We have a serious problem on our hands. The definitions and meanings are fundamentally different. It is precisely this difference which is the key to understanding why teaching on the *oikos* is largely absent from Church based teaching programmes. The churches would be emptied!

PART 2

The case for replacing word "Church" with the Greek word "*ekklesia*". The noun "Church" refers specifically to The Harlot of Revelations, and the word "*Ekklesia*" refers to the Bride of Christ also of Revelations. Thoughts are repeated from part 1, but presented in a new context.

THE CENTRAL THESIS OF THIS DISCUSSION IS:

"It is the individual in a Christian *oikos*, and the *oikos* combined with other *oikos* which are the *ekklesia*, not Church. Thus, the *oikos* is the centre of God's basic plan of salvation on earth".

The proof of this proposition follows.

The strength of any conclusion is dependent upon four basic elements, namely: The Premises, Assumptions, Proof (the supporting factual evidence), and the Conclusions.

THE PREMISE

Mainline Church, which includes Pentecostal and Evangelical theology, teaches individual salvation and the importance of The Church as the primary nurturing agency. I believe this teaching is erroneous and completely unsupportable by scriptures in The New Covenant. The teaching should be the individual in context of his own household (*oikos*). There are a few strong reasons for this conclusion and are set out below for your evaluation, as Bereans who tested Paul **Acts 17:10-12**.

THE ASSUMPTIONS

1. The standard for all faith is the Holy Bible. For Christians it is the New Covenant (or Testament) **2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21.**
2. The Old covenant has been replaced by the New Covenant which is the “new orthodoxy”.
3. The truth on this subject matter can be found by a comparison of current thinking and practice in the Church with the New Covenant.
4. If what we do today does not match with the New Covenant then thinking and practices must be changed to conform with The New Covenant.

THE ARGUMENT

1. What does the noun Church mean and the Greek word Ekklesia mean?
The definitions are:

A Church is defined by The New Open Bible (1983) footnote to Acts 7:38 p.1282 as:

- 1 a building designated as a place of worship, i.e. a church building
2. all who profess faith in Christ regardless of particular theological beliefs;
3. a denomination
4. single organised Christian group [organized by The Holy spirit through Godly men in a local community]
5. the Body of Christ, the universal church [of both living and those who have fallen sleep , died]

An *ekklesia* in the original Greek includes only the points 4. and 5. of the above definition of Church . The word *ekklesia* is made up of two Greek words: “*ek*” meaning “out of” and “*kklesia*” meaning “assembly”. Combined it means the “ones called out of the assembly “ By confessing that we are the *ekklesia*, the Bride of Christ we are affirm that we have been ***called out*** of a church, synagogue, or pagan temple ***into*** Jesus Christ’s body, the Bride of Christ confessing our desire to be Holy.

B. Other points to note:

1. Why was the word *ekklesia* translated incorrectly to have additional meanings? Answer: Men established the Church system as a means of control of the population and had to justify it. Whilst the church system was developing it was formalized by the Roman Emperor Constantine in the beginning of 300 A.D. He became the Head of the Church, and appointed Pope and the priesthood. He built the magnificent cathedral/ churches and established a priest seminary training system. Pagan rites and holidays were included with New Covenant and Old Covenant teachings and practices. Latin became the language used by the priest. Ordinary people could not understand Latin. People were taught to blindly follow what the priests or The Church.

The redefinition of *ekklesia* is the major source of gross confusion with The Church.

The continued use of the word church to describe what God has ordained and is doing through His body, The Bride of Christ, is the single most important cause of utter confusion. As shown and proven in a discussion entitled "The Bride and The Harlot", the church is equated to The Mother of Harlots and the so-called "protestant churches" are her daughters! (mentioned at the beginning of this discussion).

The control by men excludes control by The Holy Spirit. The flesh and spirit are at war against each other

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2: 12-16;

“ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ” Galatians 5:17-18

2. The Old Covenant Temple, its priesthood system, and the remission of sins through blood sacrifices of animals was completely fulfilled on The Passover death of Jesus the Christ at Calvary. The annulment of the whole temple structure and sacrificial system was announced with the words by Jesus Christ on The Cross *“It is finished!”* and by the supernatural tearing of the thick temple veil from top to bottom which separated the Holy of Holies from the people. All knowledge and practices of the Old Covenant regime was ended by God’s Son by His death on the Cross - by God The Father Himself! The New Covenant teaching about these fundamental Christian truths is found, for instance, in The Book of Hebrews, and the letters to The Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians. The letter to the Colossians, especially, and with Ephesians places Jesus The Christ as the centre of the cosmos and all knowledge and experience.

3. The subsequent ascension into Heaven of Jesus The Christ, and the amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost sealed the New Order, the “New Wine in New wineskins”. Disciples led and controlled completely by The Holy Spirit were suddenly set free from the chains of The Law of Moses (which included the Ten Commandments and all the other 603 rules and regulations which governed life in Judea. Traditional Jewish religious orthodoxy had come to an end for the Jews and for the rest of the world. **Acts 2**

4. Salvation for the Jews was also suddenly available to pagans (non-Jews) – in other words, the whole world. This was effected by the work of the Holy Spirit who brought all those who God had ordained to repentance, and who were baptised in the “born again” experience **John 3**. In fact, Matthew in Chapter 3:11, reveals that there was not one, but **three baptisms of Jesus the Christ –**

the baptism in water to signify the death of the “old man” like Jesus The Christ’s death and the subsequent rising up to a new life as a

new creature, a new man in Christ (signified by the total covering in water of the person);

the baptism in the Holy Spirit for the in-filling of and by The Holy spirit (signified by the outpouring from Heaven to completely envelop the convert who was now completely under the control of God's Spirit, His power); and,

the baptism in fire for purifying in holiness, signifying that the disciple was following and would continue to follow Jesus the Christ into Heaven as he walked through this world **Matthew 3:11**. This is a work of Grace not of works and the will of men and of ancestry **Ephesians 2: 8, John 1: 13**.

Jews and pagans alike had to undergo the new baptism in Jesus the Christ (the three baptisms) , even those who had received the baptism of John who preceded Jesus the Christ. Christians, who have gone through church membership based baptisms need to have the new baptism of Jesus the Christ.

5. A formal church hierarchy and system was in its embryonic form last decades of the first century and was born officially in the beginning of 300A.D. under Emperor Constantine. Huge awe inspiring Cathedrals were built and the formal priesthood/laity system formalised and institutionalised. Church and State became one as it was in Jesus the Christ's days and in the Old Covenant. The Roman Church was fully sanctioned by men, unsanctioned by the Holy Spirit. It contradicted New Covenant teaching in the following ways:

- a. **Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb** – His blood cleanses all from unrighteousness **1 John 1:7-9**. Jesus The Christ died on The Passover, not on Easter Good Friday as Church tradition leads us to believe (The Passover is never celebrated on the same day as Easter Good Friday);
- b. **Jesus Christ is The High Priest** **Hebrews 9:11** whose work in finished **John 19:30** hence He is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty and not standing as the human High Priest had to do **Hebrews 12:2** and all believers can enter in the Holy of Holies boldly **Hebrews 4:16** through the veil of His body **Hebrews 10: 19-20**. God does not recognise any human High Priest in the New Covenant whatever his title, be it "Pope", "Archbishop", "President" or whatever ;

c. *All disciples are now members of the priesthood* – a priesthood of all believers, a “*chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you (all who believe) may proclaim the praise of Him who called you (us) out of darkness into His marvelous light*” **1 Peter 2:9**. There is no place in God’s kingdom on earth and in heaven in the New Covenant, for the class distinction of people known as “priests” the trained clergy or men trained in church sanctioned places of learning, and “laity” the non-trained people who are not ordained priest or pastors. The priesthood operates through the Head of Household (*oikos*) who is submitted to Jesus the Christ, head of every Christian *oikos*. The head then disciples, with the help of his wife, his children. Ephesians 5:22-23, 6: 1-4, Deuteronomy 6 1-9. There is no place for Sunday School in the *oikos*.

d. *The Temple in Jerusalem was completely destroyed in 70A.D.* by the Romans. This underlined the new teaching that God will not be found in buildings made by man’s hands.
“The Most High does not dwell in temples with hands” Acts 7:48, a thought which is repeated about 20 years later
“God who made the world and everything in it, since He is the Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands” Acts 17:24.

Jesus The Christ alluded to this when he was in the temple precincts and said to His disciples

“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore when He has risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this to them; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had said” John 2: 19-22.

For the Jews, The Temple was the centre of their faith where “god is to be found”. To this day, the Temple has not been rebuilt in Jerusalem. There is no instruction in the New Covenant for any physical temple to be rebuilt, not by Jesus the Christ, nor by his apostles nor disciples.

e. *Jesus The Christ’s encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well proves that true worship is no longer in a building or rooted*

in land. " Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father' But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" **John 4: 20 21, 23-24.**

The final nails are driven into the Temple or Church coffin and all that is found in the Old Covenant.

- f. **The glory of God which was found in The Great Temple, in the Old Covenant. In the new Covenant God's glory is now to be found in a believer's temple – his body.**

" Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." **1 Corinthians 3:16-17.**

Later, Paul writes in context of the ban on sleeping with harlots

" Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

It is crystal clear that true worship is completely in and by the Spirit and independent of geographical and building location.

- g **Jesus Christ specifically forbade hierarchical structures for his followers:** " You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority of them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to be great among you let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your servant (doulos – or slave) – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served , but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20: 25-28

- h **There was a total ban on Denominations and splinter groups**

At the beginning of the first letter to the Corinthians, written around A.D. 56 , Paul gives us tantalizing glimpses of the problems they faced. The Holy Spirit makes it abundantly clear that the community of believers are to stick together come what may! Sectarianism is defined as being "carnal" which is more

accurately translated "of the Flesh" (the Greek word is "sarx"). The flesh is at war with the Spirit. **Galatians 5:16-26**

" And I brethren , could not speak to you as to spiritual people , but as to carnal(sarx) as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food., for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal . For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal (sarx)I and behaving like mere men? For when one says' I am of Paul', and another 'I am of Apollos,' are we not carnal (sarx)? " **1 Corinthians 3:1-4**

This is totally consistent with what Jesus taught, recorded in Mark 9: 38-41. Furthermore, Jesus says

" what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination among men" **Luke 16: 15**

The passage reveals that the underlying cause for the divisions is to be found in the desires of "fleshly" (as opposed to "spirit-filled" leaders who are filled with the leaven of the Sadducees and Pharisees and of Herod.

If we read on in Corinthians we learn that disciples are, in the spirit, corporately "God's building" **1 Corinthians 3:9**. Later Peter encouraged the persecuted believers saying that believers were "Coming to Him(Jesus) as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" **1 Peter 2: 4-5**

Jesus the Christ rebutted Satan with the words

" man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" **Matthew 4:4.**

We do not have the luxury of choosing which words we follow and which words we neglect.

Scholars are united in recognising that the early Christians met together by households. They call this "house churches" This is to prepare minds to accept the dropping of the word "house" to leave "Church" as the natural consequence of historical development. Unsurprisingly, there is no debate about a New Covenant legality of the formal Church structure. This is

because they would like to all and sundry to believe that the structure we have in its various forms has biblical sanction. The uplifting of the Old Covenant Jerusalem Temple into the New covenant is accepted without question.

The first century Christians met together as a community (*Ekklesia*) by *oikos*, households, linked by the Holy Spirit into the spiritual body of Jesus the Christ.

The various *oikos* of believers assembled together as they could for mutual comfort which they desperately need.

They suffered great persecution, from Jews who were determined to destroy The Followers of The Way (Christians), and from the Romans. **Read Hebrews and Peter's letters.** Nero blamed the Christians for setting fire to Rome (an act He ordered in 62 A.D.) and put hundreds on to Crosses lining roads to Rome and then set them alight as torches. Christians were also used to meeting in the entertainment arenas (we call them sp[orts stadiums today) used as a spectacle in place of wild animals to entertain bored and blood thirsty Roman citizens seeking new thrills. The catacombs became the home for many Christians who could not flee Rome. The Romans soldiers dare not enter the maze of tunnels for fear of their lives.

Dangerous problems from without, also came from within!

Paul warned the Ephesians that *"savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves."* **Acts 20: 29-30.** His letters address various attacks.

John, the writer of the gospel account and the letters is vocal in his warnings to keep the faith in Jesus the Christ in its simplicity as taught by the apostles.

The Church of today erroneously calls these "House Churches" or House groups linking them to the main body, "The Church".

Men dedicate their lives to planting these house churches, then overseeing them as "apostles" or gurus. Such churches are nothing really different from formal churches or denominations except they are smaller in numbers, and meet in homes not a purpose built buildings, or hired hall.

WHY IS THERE CONFUSION IN CHRISTIANDOM?

If you agree with the New Covenant that anything that smacks of denominationalism or of a hierarchical system is banned by God **1 Corinthians 3:1-17 and Matthew 20: 25-28** , how then do we justify the existence of a proliferation of denominations as different as the many colours of a rainbow?

In the end, the justifications are only excuses to justify the operation of the flesh, or the arrogance of men who have their own agendas and who want to build their own kingdoms!

The Church system has over the centuries built-up a body of coherent body of thought which is called theology which serves two major purposes – to justify its legitimate existence, and to provide a body of ‘new wine in new wine skins’ orthodoxy to counter error. It is taught as “**Doctrine of The Church**” and promulgated by seminaries and Bible Colleges and other such training centres, all geared to churning out its disciples. Their training involves subtle manipulation of the truth, misleading translations of key Greek words, and blatant misuse of Holy Scripture. The system produces trained men who have utter financial security, very secure jobs with excellent prospects of advancement up the structures, housing, transport and all expenses paid. These men are wined and dined by the believers often at the very best restaurants. But they are men who have been brain-washed! Confusion reigns in their heads. They have been taught a mish-mash of Old Covenant and New Covenant thoughts the end result of which justifies the system, and confirms their exalted status of Priesthood. The fact that the “Church” , whatever you conceive this term to mean, has gained society’s approval by the fact of its long history and continuing presence and growth in nations across the world underscores its dominance in thinking. Such men are hardly ideal candidates for questioning the orthodoxy! **What should be taught is the Doctrine of the *Ekklesia*.**

Martin Luther (1483-1546) penned the great Christian hymn “A Mighty Fortress is My God”. This is a popular hymn, but like most things, the meaning is changed from God being the “Mighty Fortress” to “The Church is the mighty fortress”. And mighty fortress it is. The man-made system in its many forms has survived down through the ages. It would therefore be very presumptuous for me to think that the thoughts in this discussion will

be readily accepted by Christians, let alone those who sit in the seats of power in their Churches.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **EKKLESIA** AND **CHURCH**

It is all in the Definition:

1. There are no instructions in the New Covenant (or New Testament) for any one to build a Church building and organization. In fact God's words clearly state in two references that God does not live in temples made by men's hands. **Acts 7: 48, 17: 24-34** (repetition is for emphasis!). It would be reasonable to expect God's own Son Jesus Christ to give instructions to build a temple if that is what God desired. Failing this we could reasonably expect the Holy Spirit to give the instructions. There are no such instructions in the New Covenant.

2. King Solomon was entrusted with the task of building The Great Temple of Jerusalem. Solomon wondered why he was building it at (all since God could not possibly be confined to such a structure) and was told that

"the temple is not for man but for the LORD God" **1 Chronicles 29:1b.**

The whole sacrificial system for sins pointed to and was fulfilled by the advent of Jesus Christ as the ultimate Lamb sacrifice **John 1:29** Everything the priests and people in the rituals had special significance and were fulfilled in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Christ. The history of Israel, then after the split into two kingdoms the sacrifices and rituals were continued whilst the Israel and Judah chose to serve other gods – in other words to play the harlot. God's Temple remained as a constant reminder of their harlotry. They were being weighed, measured, and found wanting against the temple yardstick! Our yardstick is the New Covenant and the person of Jesus the Christ.

3. God is well capable of giving instructions to build a Temple for the New Covenant era of history, but He gave no such a command to either Jesus Christ or to The Holy Spirit.

(a) **He gave Noah** precise instructions to build The Ark which saved one household out of the whole world – Noah's own household of eight comprising Noah, his three sons Shem Ham and Japeth and their wives. The Great flood, 2346b.C. is recorded in Genesis Chapters 6 to 10. His descendents repopulated the world.

(b) **He gave Moses** detailed plans and specifications to build the portable Tabernacle around 1466 B.C.

(c) **He gave King David** the detailed plans and specifications and the money to build the Great Temple. King David was not allowed to build it, and his second son Solomon built it 986-979 B.C. This Temple was to be built for God's reasons, not man's. **1 Chronicles 29:1.**

(d) The New Covenant has no instructions to build a Temple. Men took it upon themselves to establish a religious system which excluded the Holy Spirit, and therefore the Godhead.

4. God declares through His prophet Hosea that men build temples because they have forgotten him, not because they wish to glorify His Name!

In the height of apostasy Hosea was sent to serve warning of judgment.

" For Israel has forgotten his Maker, And has built temples; Judah has multiplied fortified cities " **Hosea 8: 14a**

Israel and Judah were sinning – harlotry (worshipping other gods) was the problem and would not repent and so relied on building the physical temples and fortifications to protect themselves. The Church temple building programme has continued unabated down through the ages and the church building industry abounds today. The armament industry is also a feature of human history, and is the backbone to the economy of the mighty United States of America. "God is dead!"

It is not uncommon to read the following words on the memorial placard for each church building "To the Glory of God. " Who do you believe? God's words or men's words?

5. The injunction to go to Church does not exist in Scripture. Try as church pastors might, they cannot come up with a scripture to justify the existence of a church building, nor of going to church. The only scripture they can drum up is

" ...not forsaking not the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. "
Hebrews 10:25

"Assembling" together is not a command to "go to church". It cannot even be implied. The overall context of this passage is severe persecution, and therefore most probably refers to simply a private

meeting together as a community because a public meeting would be dangerous. Some even stopped going to the private meeting together to encourage one another! It is natural to meet without any formal agenda under times of great stress to comfort one another as people do in times of war, great natural disasters, death or other tragedies. Furthermore, the immediate scriptural context is that we can enter into the Holy of Holies through the shed blood of Jesus Christ through the veil of His flesh! **Hebrews 4:16, 10:19-22**. There is no hint of a church structure, the priesthood of the church with its division of other non--priests called the "laity" in the letter to the Hebrews. Rather we are sufficient in Jesus Christ who is the High Priest, and there is no need for further offerings and sacrifices synagogue or "Church" attendance !

6. So why must we be concerned with this basic difference between Church and *Ekklesia*?

Answer: As there is no legal basis for going to church and submitting ourselves to and giving our hard earned money to support a man-centered organization, we can spend time where God our Redeemer intended – at home. We can give as He directs, not as men dictate. We can also meet together as a single *oikos* of 2 or 3 or more household members, or as an *Ekklesia*, assembling together of the 2 or 3 households (*oikos*). **Matthew 18:20**.

A husband can devote more time and energy to look after his wife, and children. Thus he can allow the Holy Spirit to work in his own temple and in the lives of his loved ones at home, where the Spirit will bring us to true fellowship with the Godhead. And in so doing, He will then reflect this fellowship within our home life. The perfect harmony in thought word and deed which exists in the Godhead will duplicate within our home life. What more could a man wish and hope for? The Holy Spirit will do this for us if we allow Him by giving Him the time to do it!

Telling others about the life, death resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ goodness of God will be a natural event as each home reaches out in agape and grace of God our Father in our neighbourhood, community, and society.

Implications

If you are currently a pastor or priest of a church may I suggest that you bring your situation to the Lord Jesus Christ, the High Priest, for evaluation.

You may wish to share your revelation with your parishioners, your flock, beginning with the Elders, Presbyter, Vestry or what ever you call the leaders in your group, agree. An option is to regroup, re-organise and tell the flock to go back, each to their own homes and spend time there rebuilding their marriage and family life the way God wants it done with Him as the Head. Following after Jesus Christ requires some hard decisions. Trust Him! For who else will you want to trust? Ask Jesus the Christ to reveal what you should do – if you and I are not doing what He wills then we may as well pack-up our Christian bags and call it quits right now! In the end you, not I are answerable to the Lord for your own actions, just as I am for mine. I am acutely aware that I am answerable for the words I am writing down in this discussion paper. What comes out of the mix need not be what I suggest! It is entirely what Jesus the Christ says to you, in your situation.

“ No one can serve [be a slave to] two masters [lords], for either he will hate the one and love [agape] the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more than value than they?” Matthew 6: 24- 26 read on!

If you are attending a church or fellowship stop and take a long hard look at you are doing. Then, consider very carefully what you should do. Discuss the issues with your wife and then as a family. Decide what you are going to do together. Again, ask our Lord Jesus the Christ.

If you have stopped going to church then feel guilty no longer! Enjoy the freedom! Attend to home chores, to looking after your loved ones. And don't let any one bring you under bondage to man again! Stay under the wings of God, stay under the Lamb. Be righteous. Be holy. Be free from the rules of men!

PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

We are a priesthood of all believers – men as head of their households. **1 Peter 2:9.** We all have direct access through Jesus Christ to the very throne of God in heaven, anytime **Hebrews 4: 12-16, 10:19-22.**

God's thoughts are revolutionary – they turn the world the right way up! His thoughts will not be accepted easily by the rank and file especially by Church leaders anywhere in this world. There will be active rejection of

the truth. The message destroys their "bread baskets" or "rice Bowls" (living styles, credit cards, cars etc. collection plates, free holidays etc.), their whole "raison d'être" (reason for living, for being) . More importantly they cannot justify their roles in a Church in The New Covenant (The New Testament).

Weigh and consider the scriptures presented, and the pattern of thinking.
2 Timothy 1:13 - that is revelation!

Check it out yourself. You are responsible for your own salvation, and that of your loved ones, not me, nor anyone else.

I hope this encourages you. Look up and meditate on the key scriptures. It is, in reality, a plan of action sanctioned by our Lord by His own Word!

HOW THE DECEPTION IS PERPETRATED

1. **Systematic Theology** – the Doctrine of The Church. Indoctrination begins with the mistranslation of the Greek word *ekklesia* to as the word Church. There is no "Doctrine of the Oikos" for this would undermine its "raison d'être"
2. **Mixing of Old and New Covenant teaching.** This is "ultra viries", (illegal). Tithing and the Priestly system is Old Covenant teaching and yet it is uplifted and planted into New Covenant teaching. This causes total confusion in the minds of the sheep. The New Covenant replaces the old.
3. **The existence of Church Buildings symbolises its validity of The Church in "Christian" based societies.** Teaching such as The insistence that all Christians must belong to a Church when there is no New Covenant scripture to support this, and "Outside the Church no salvation!" is the advertising slogan, often unspoken words, but hammered home day and night. Advertising works, that is why there are advertising agencies. Church based social agencies underscore the validity and relevance of the Church in society. Church is ubiquitous.
4. **The promotion of the thought that an institution makes the Christian faith legal.** If you don't belong to a Church you are somehow living illegally.
5. **The mistranslation of the Greek word *ekklesia*.** This discussion focuses on *oikos* and its members who are The Bride of Christ, **Revelations 19:7-9, 21:1-2** . The *Ekklesia* which is made-up of Christian

households (in Greek is the Christian *oikos*). Expressed as an equation it is *Oikos* + *oikos*+ etc. = *Ekklesia*. The focus is on the importance of the smallest unit, the *oikos*. Jesus the Christ is LORD of the Christian family or household (*oikos*) which is rooted to the ground, land. The *Ekklesia* is a spiritual body, which may meet *oikos* + *oikos* etc. as when and whenever the Spirit leads, or as individual representatives in cafes, whilst walking, infields, or wherever!

6. **Contextualisation.** This is the theological argument that the instructions given by the Holy Spirit in the first century were right for that time. We are now living in a different, modern era where past thinking is hardly relevant to the modern situation, in fact irrelevant. Hence the acceptance of female priests, a multitude of denominations, and accommodation of a bewildering variety of thinking ranging from total belief to the bodily resurrection of Jesus which is a figment of the fertile imaginations of early men, plus other teaching and doctrines not found in the New Covenant. The New wine and New wine skins of the New Covenant, has been replaced with "Neo wine and Neo wine skins".

A Christian is a citizen of the Kingdom of God (KOG or KOH where "H" stands for Heaven) **John 1:12-13, Ephesians 2:19**. It would be reasonable to expect that the beliefs, values, normative patterns would be the same for all its citizens irrespective of race, and colour, as well as sharing the same creed. God is the Father, and Jesus the Christ is its King.

Jesus Christ is LORD in the household (*oikos*) and LORD of the *ekklesia*, the Bride of Christ **Revelations 19: 7-8, 21: 1-2** who holds the key to individual salvation. **Ephesians 5:19-33** (A summary of the difference between Church and *ekklesia* is discussed pages 9-17. For a fuller discussion go to the website www.kiwibamboo.co.nz (type in Kiwibamboo.co.nz on Google and this will take you straight to the website, then click into "Kiwibamboo News" and scroll to "The Bride and The Harlot" for detailed biblical, historical and theological proof).

The ultimate goal for every Christian man who has a household is to see each member get into Heaven by walking thorough this world doing God's Will **Matthew 7:21**, as pure reflectors of God's Holiness **2 Corinthians 3:18**, His light **Matthew 5:16** , His *Agape* love **Romans 5:5** , His character **Romans 12:2**, **1 John 4:11**. The Church institutional cannot possibly achieve this for any

household for its very existence is to dilute the importance of the Household. You will be able to spend valuable time with your loved ones without guilt feelings associated with non Church attendance.

This is a simple presentation of The Truth. It is not an attempt to tell you what you should do. We should all be led by The Holy spirit. Let Him alone lead and guide you into all Truth, through Jesus Christ. These are just my thoughts which I have the privilege of sharing with you on the subject of living our Christian lives based on God's words! You do not have to agree with me, but you have to agree with what God says in His Word which is the Truth. Check it out for yourself! What Jesus the Christ tells you to do in your own home is a private matter between you and Him. We should expect some beautiful things to emerge out of the woodwork!

" And you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free "

John 8:32

" Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

John 8:36

FREELY HAVE WE RECEIVED, SO FREELY GIVE

" Heal the sick,

Cleanse the lepers,

Raise the dead,

Cast out demons

Freely you have received, freely give " Matthew 10: 8b

There is no copyright on what I have shared. Feel free to share the thoughts of God! No need to even quote the human source - the God's Words say it all! All we do is quote from His word! We must always uplift our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, and He will draw all men to Himself **John 12:32**.

Beware of those who ask for money to do God's work. God doesn't need your money. Men do. He gave His Son for You. **John 3:16** What can I do in return for His Son gift, but to give myself and my household ?! **1 John 3:16**. What He wants is "me".

If has got control of "me" then He has it all! The Holy Spirit will lead and direct each and everyone to give where there is need, not to those who want! What better than giving to those who we reach out to and who we know really need

help (financial, food, clothes, shoes, our helping hands) until they can stand on their own two feet ?

BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT – ALWAYS!

The Holy Spirit will teach us to do all things, if we let Him. **John 14:26**

The sons of God are led by The Holy Spirit not by the flesh **Romans 8:1, 14**

The Holy Spirit directed all the early apostles and disciples.

The Holy Spirit strengthened the first century believers, so He allowed them to suffer persecution – He continues to do the same for those who trust him.

The Holy Spirit gave to each the power to follow Him, Jesus The Christ, to carry our own Cross so that we can be transformed into His image!

It is The Christ who is “*Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*” . **Hebrews 12:2**

“ *FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING* ”

Acts 17: 28

BE SANCTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT CONTINUOUSLY

The most beautiful picture of righteousness, is presented in the Chinese words on the right hand side . **Eight
World**

Eight in the whole world have The Lamb of God Over “Me” them – one household – Noah’s, who came Through the Great world-wide flood in The Ark, [Jesus] Blood sanctified me and sanctifies me continuously. **Lamb
Me**

The cloud led the children of Israel, who we are. The cloud Is The Holy Spirit **1 Corinthians 10:1**. He covers me always as long as I keep Him over me! He makes me righteous. Being righteous is being Holy, god-like. Jesus The Christ is constantly over me. His blood sanctifies me. The word for “Lamb” is the same word for “King”. Therefore, The King cares for us as His subjects of His kingdom – washed continuously by the Blood of the Lamb! **Revelations 12:11 , 1 Peter 1:2**

Since our bodies are The Temple of The Holy Spirit we need to keep our spirits spotlessly clean and without blemish as living sacrifices as we offer ourselves to our Heavenly Father.

公義
我

“ I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service . And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ” **Romans 12:1-2**

“ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ” **Romans 8:1**

“ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. ” **Romans 8:14**

“ But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. ” **1 Corinthians 6:11**

“ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of The Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore Glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

“ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. ” **Hebrews 4:11-13**

“ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?
For you are the temple of the living God.
As God has said ‘ I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my People.’

Therefore

Come out from among them And be separate, says the LORD.
Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. ‘

I will be a Father to you, And you shall be my sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty”

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved,
let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting holiness in the fear of God “* **2 Corinthians 6: 14- 7:1**

Come out of her my people , Come out!

*“ And the Spirit and bride say:
‘ Come!’ And let him who hears say,
‘ Come!’ And let him who thirsts come.
And whoever thirsts come.
And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*
Revelations 22: 17

**COME OUT OF THE WORLD. COME OUT OF THE HARLOT.
COME INTO JESUS THE CHRIST AND BE WITH HIM AND IN HIM
IN THE HEAVENLIES AND ON EARTH.**

STAND-UP AND BE COUNTED..... ON EARTH & IN HEAVEN

Be a Daniel, Dare to stand up alone, with your household! **The Book of Daniel**

Be a Joshua
“As for me and my house we will serve The LORD” **Joshua 24: 15**

“Father Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven” **Matthew 6:10**

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References

Visit www.kingdomline.com for discussions on the church system, tithing etc.
www.ourgodnus.com
www.kiwibamboo.co.nz , click into Kiwibamboo News and scroll to various discussions especially The Bride & the Harlot, The Three Most Important Chinese words .
e-mail: Lawrence@kiwibamboo.co.nz

“Infant Baptism in the First Four Centuries” – Joachim Jeremias (1960) Professor of Theology University of Gottingen First published in English 1960.

This scholarly work proves beyond any reasonable doubt that the *Ekklesia* was based on **the *oikos* formula for salvation of Acts 16:31** “ Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your household (*oikos*) will be saved” The *oikos* included all who lived in the household, including children and slaves. Whilst the link between *oikos* and The Church (Roman Catholicism and its offshoots the Protestant churches) is fraught with biblical, theological and historical difficulties, these can be resolved by liking the *oikos* to the *ekklesia*. Joachim was unable to, or he simply chose not to, draw the obvious conclusion that the *oikos* was more important than The Roman Church. Such a conclusion would be “blasphemous” to The Roman Church and most Protestant Churches who see that “The Church” is the repository of all truth.