

Why Can't I Do It Alone?

Understanding the Word “CHURCH”



Why Can't I Do It Alone?

Did Jesus just pull the word “church” out of thin air

No... “*ekklesia*” was a word packed with

- Religious meaning
- Social meaning

The religious meaning came from the Old Testament

The social meaning came from Greco-Roman culture



How Do You Understand the Word “Church”

Old Testament Religion

Church = a community with a clear identity (“Assembly of God”)

Big Question: How do we continue to encourage one another to live out our identity as a people of God

Greco-Roman Society

- The “polis” (city) was a god-ordained order for human welfare
- Greek identity was built on being a “politns” (citizen)
...citizens would assemble (church) to exercise the privileges & responsibilities of sharing in the city’s civil order (Acts 19:32, 39-40)

Big Question: How do we live for the good of the community?



How Do You Understand the Word “Church”

Assembly, People together, Relationship, Community

- **Concrete...Identifiable**
- **Something new...never before...built by Christ with a common identity in Christ**

Big Questions:

- **How do we continue to encourage one another to live out our identity as disciples of Jesus**
 - ...life together in His Word (the Bible)**
- **How do we live for the good of the community**
 - ...life together as a force engaging the world with the healing power of Christ's love & truth**



How Do You Understand the Word “Church”

A Community with Leadership

1 Peter 5:1-4 *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:* 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

