


FOR JUST AS THE BODY IS ONE AND HAS MANY MEMBERS,  
AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE BODY, THOUGH MANY,  
ARE ONE BODY, SO IT IS WITH CHRIST. FOR IN ONE SPIRIT WE  
WERE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY - JEWS OR GREEKS,  
SLAVES OR FREE - AND ALL WERE MADE TO DRINK OF ONE  
SPIRIT - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13



# THE CHURCH

## The Church

### Week 6

#### **Day 1: When Everyone Knows Your Story**

Reading: Acts 9:1-9

Saul's reputation preceded him everywhere he went. He couldn't hide behind a carefully curated image or selectively share his story. Everyone knew exactly who he'd been and what he'd done. Yet in his most vulnerable moment, when his past was fully exposed, God met him on the Damascus road.

Your past may feel like a permanent label, but God sees beyond your history to your destiny. The same light that blinded Saul can illuminate your path forward. When you feel defined by yesterday's mistakes, remember that God specializes in radical transformation. He doesn't ask you to hide your story; He rewrites it. Your reputation with people may take time to rebuild, but your standing with God changes in an instant of surrender.

# The Church

## Week 6

### Day 2: The Courage to Lift Instead of Leave

Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Barnabas did what no one else was willing to do. He risked his own reputation to vouch for someone everyone else rejected. While the disciples saw Saul's dangerous past, Barnabas saw God's transforming power. His name literally means "son of encouragement," and he lived up to it when it mattered most.

Who in your life needs a Barnabas? Perhaps someone struggling with addiction, wrestling with doubt, or carrying shame from their past? Being a Barnabas isn't convenient. It requires stepping into messy situations when others step back. It means choosing grace over judgment and potential over performance. Today, ask God to show you someone who needs to be lifted rather than left. Your willingness to stand with them might be the turning point in their story.

# The Church

## Week 6

### **Day 3: The Gift of Being Known**

Reading: Psalm 139:1-18

We crave connection yet fear exposure. We want to be known but worry about what people will discover. This tension keeps us isolated, building walls instead of bridges. David understood that being fully known begins with God, not people. He recognized that God's intimate knowledge of him wasn't threatening but comforting.

When you grasp that God knows everything about you and still loves you completely, it frees you to be authentic with others. You don't have to perform or pretend. The One whose opinion matters most already sees you fully and declares you worthy of love. This divine acceptance empowers you to lower your defenses in community. Let God's complete knowledge of you become the foundation for honest relationships. You're already fully known by the One who matters most.

# The Church

## Week 6

### **Day 4: Grace Instead of Condemnation**

Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Paul, formerly Saul, would later write that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. He knew this truth intimately because he'd experienced both sides: condemning others as Saul, and receiving grace as Paul. Barnabas modeled this principle before Paul could articulate it.

When someone stumbles, our natural tendency is to remind them why they're struggling. We think correction equals love. But people in crisis rarely need a lecture on how they got there; they need a hand to help them out. Grace doesn't ignore sin; it offers hope beyond it. Truth without grace crushes; grace without truth enables. But grace combined with truth transforms. Today, choose to be someone who extends the same grace you've received. Remember your own rescue before you critique someone else's struggle.

# The Church

## Week 6

### **Day 5: Reproducing What You Want to Receive**

Reading: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus taught a revolutionary principle: treat others the way you want to be treated, regardless of how they've treated you. We often reverse this, responding based on what we've received rather than what we hope to receive. But Jesus understood something profound: you reproduce what you practice.

If you want encouragement, become an encourager. If you want grace, extend grace. If you want a community that embraces imperfect people, start embracing imperfect people yourself. This isn't just moral obligation; it's spiritual multiplication. The church becomes what its members model. You can't control whether others will be a Barnabas to you, but you can control whether you'll be a Barnabas to someone else. As you lift others, you create the very culture of acceptance you're seeking. Start today: see someone not for who they've been, but for who God created them to be.