

Welcome to the Family

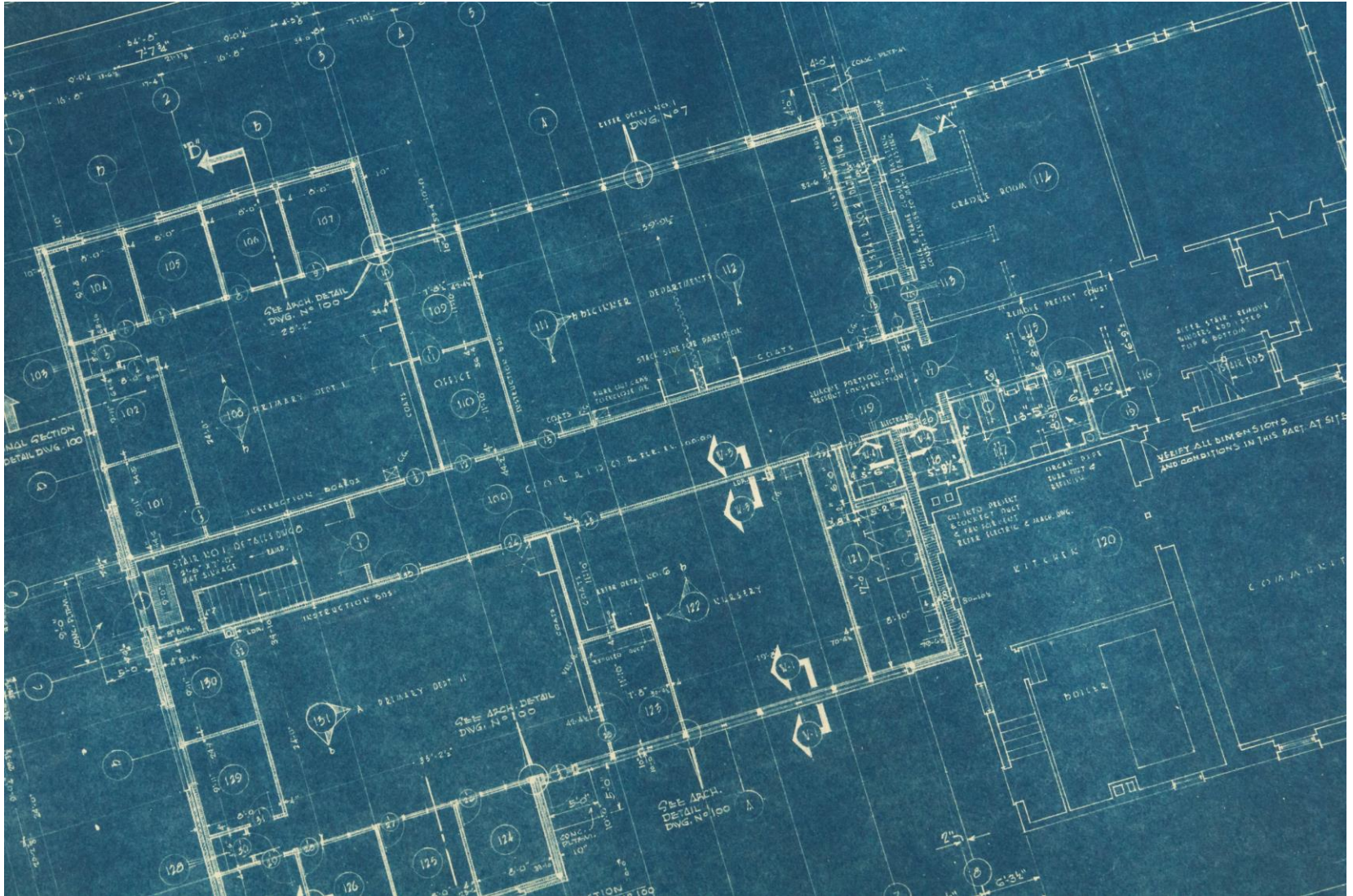


Kathy Eanes

Our 2023 theme: “Let Us Arise and Build”



Seeking God's Foundation



Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

**All verses from 1995 New American Standard*

Ephesians 2:19-22

²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

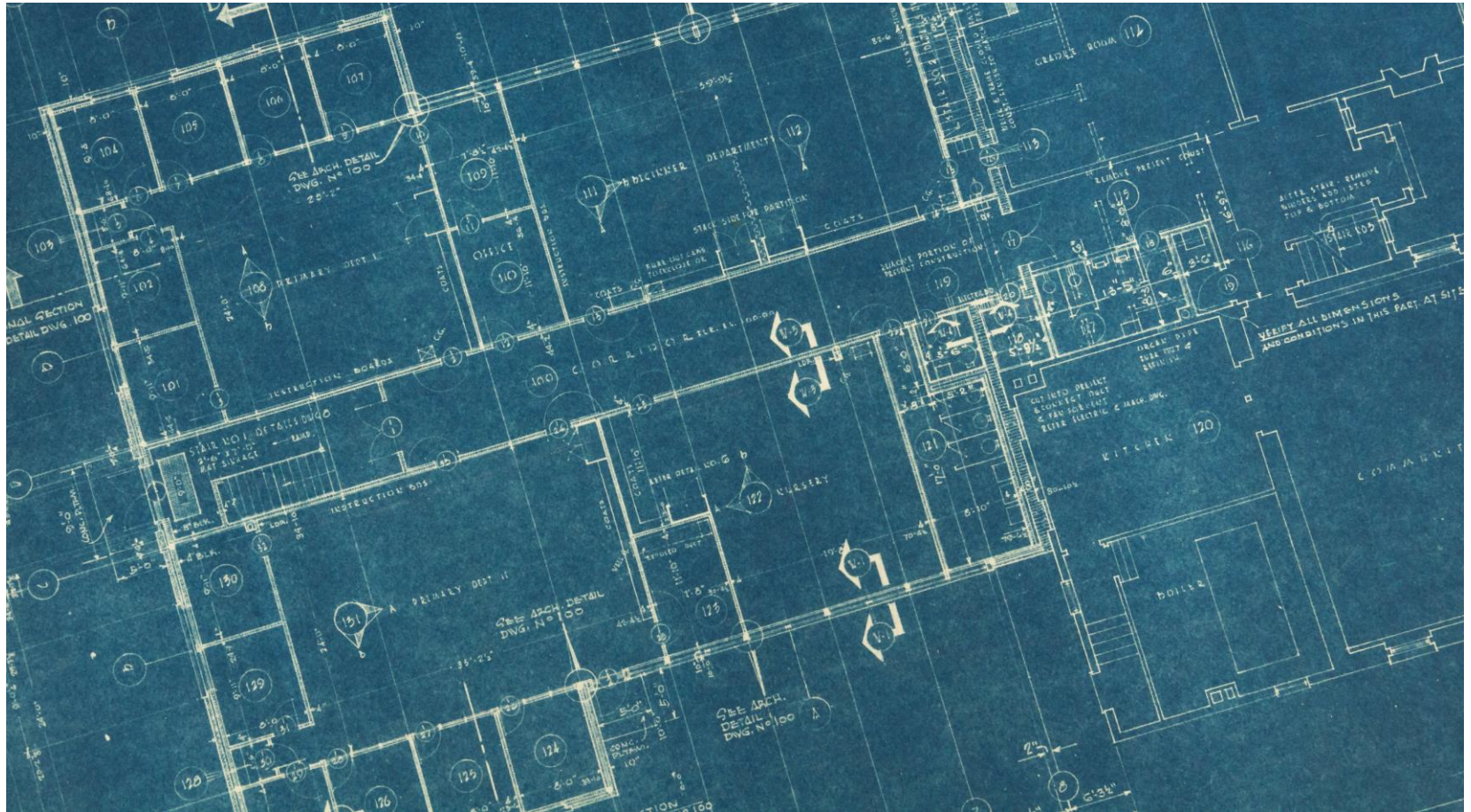
²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Why the Church of Christ?



1 Corinthians 2:2

² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.



Matthew 16:16-18

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

...

¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Acts 20:28

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.


Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.



What Jesus Wanted



1) Jesus
wanted His
church to be
undivided.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

...

¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 17:20-23

²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.



2) Jesus wanted His church to continue in the teachings and practices given by the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

1 Corinthians 11:2

² Now I praise you because
you remember me in everything
and hold firmly to the traditions, just as
I delivered them to you.

Philippians 3:17

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 4:9

⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Jude 3

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Is “Mere Christianity” Still Possible?



Is “Mere Christianity” Still Possible?



Image from: www.lightstock.com

1) We take only the name of Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

¹⁰ Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.”

¹³ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Is “Mere Christianity” Still Possible?



2) We accept no denominational
structures.

Ephesians 1:22

²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him [Jesus] as head over all things to the church,

Acts 20:17,28

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

...

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Is “Mere Christianity” Still Possible?



3) We take Scripture as our
only authority.

Mark 7:7-9

⁷ ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF
MEN.’

⁸ Neglecting the commandment of
God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

⁹ He was also saying to them, “You are
experts at setting aside the
commandment of God in order to keep
your tradition.

Acts 17:11

¹¹ Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

We are trying to be the church Jesus built – let's always keep that goal!



Acts 2:38

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.