

Worship

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- At the name of Jesus fear, darkness, etc. must go
- It is not just darkness that needs to tremble
- All authority has been given to us through His name

Mission Offering: Pastor Niki Lauder

- Our giving does not only benefit the people of Ndonga it also benefits us
- Do not give because there is a lack in Ndonga, give because you are thankful for what you have

Senior Pastor Phillicia Bester

- There is power in the name of Jesus
- We will not fear, we can overcome because of the name of Jesus

Word

- Why do we gather like this?
- Is it out of habit or tradition?

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- The first part speaks of the "Apostle's teaching" which is the teaching of the Word of God
- This is where God speaks to us
- The last thing in this verse speaks about prayer
- Prayer is when we speak to God
- It is important for us to interact with God, listening to Him and speaking to Him
- The middle part speaks about the interaction between believers
- It is vital that the church stand in relationship and fellowship
- Fellowship:
 - Ship - shape or form that something is in
 - Fellow – Money, relationship that you are investing something in
- Greek word for church is "Ekklesia" which means a body called out or called together by proclamation
- The church is about togetherness. You cannot gather on your own
- There is no such thing as a TV church. A sermon on TV can never replace your church gathering
- The problem with those churches are that when you are in trouble, no one will pray for you or visit you
- Being planted in a good church is better than listening to the podcast of a great church
- We need people, that is why God put us in a body
- You can be a soldier without an army but you will not win many battles
- You can be a Christian without a church but you will not learn to grow and be victorious
- Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke believes in the church, he said that a Christian believer needs a church just as a candle needs a candlestick, a tree needs soil and an electric lightbulb needs a

socket. Without a candlestick the candle cannot stand, without soil the tree cannot grow and without a socket a lightbulb cannot produce light neither can a Christian without fellowship stand, grow or shine

- The scripture says that they **devoted** themselves to fellowship in other words it is something to be devoted to
- What makes this gathering different to sports gatherings, etc. is the fact that God is here
- We get together for:

1. **Adoration** / Worship

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

- The part “in my name” says that it is all about Jesus
- Jesus should be at the center of our gathering
- Our first ministry is unto God
- Worship adoration is vitally important

Acts 13:1-2

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

- If you want to hear God speak, you need to minister to Him. We need to make Him first
- We are the house of God, we do not come to the church we are the church
- When we get together in cell that is church
- He does not live in buildings built with hands

2. **Supplication** / Prayer

- You can pray on your own but there is power in corporate prayer

Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

- The early church assembled together for prayer

Acts 12:12

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

- There is a place for individual prayer but also for communal prayer because there is multiplied power in the prayer of agreement

3. Harmonisation

Matthew 18:15-17

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

- We need to symphonize and harmonize and in order to do that we need to reconcile and forgive
- If there is something wrong we need to fix it
- Before an orchestra plays the conductor sounds a tuning-fork for every instrument to be tuned to the same pitch in order to cause harmony. We are God’s symphony orchestra. We do not look the same and we don’t sound the same but we harmonize for God
- Do not allow anything to disrupt the unity in the church
- The Word of God helps us to get together in one accord
- It is the Holy Spirit that is the “conductor” and that brings us together so that we can harmonize
- Unity is not uniformity, we are different but we work together

4. Non-discrimination

James 2:1-4

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

- There is no place for any kind of prejudice in the church
- We cannot discriminate on any basis of ethnicity, social or economic status
- The church should be an example of non-discrimination
- Jesus said: “go out into all the nations, making disciples”
- There is only one head of the church – Jesus Christ
- The church does not belong to one nation
- We need to make everyone feel welcome
- Let’s put Jesus at the center
- Do not allow divisions to come in
- The Word says: “The Lord added daily to the church”, you do not join a church, God adds you
- You cannot leave because of people
- If you ever want to leave the church write a letter to God not the pastor