

THE CHURCH WHAT IS IT?  
DOES IT MATTER?  
SHOULD YOU CARE?



**Church = the community of God's people**



## Metaphor:

an expression often found in literature that describes an object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that object.



Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st;  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Shall I compare you to a summer's day?  
You are more lovely and more constant:  
Rough winds shake the beloved buds of May  
And summer is far too short:  
At times the sun is too hot,  
Or often goes behind the clouds;  
And everything beautiful sometime will lose its beauty,  
By misfortune or by nature's planned-out course.  
But your youth shall not fade,  
Nor will you lose the beauty that you possess;  
Nor will death claim you for his own,  
Because in my eternal verse you will live forever.  
So long as there are people on this earth,  
So long will this poem live on, making you immortal.

# THE CHURCH

WHAT IS IT?  
DOES IT MATTER?  
SHOULD YOU CARE?

**Metaphorically Speaking...**



## **Ephesians 2:18–19**

<sup>18</sup> For through him [Jesus] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,



## **Ephesians 2:20–22**

<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.





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# The Church: A New Society





## **Galatians 3:28–29**

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



# The Church: A New Society



# The Church: A Family



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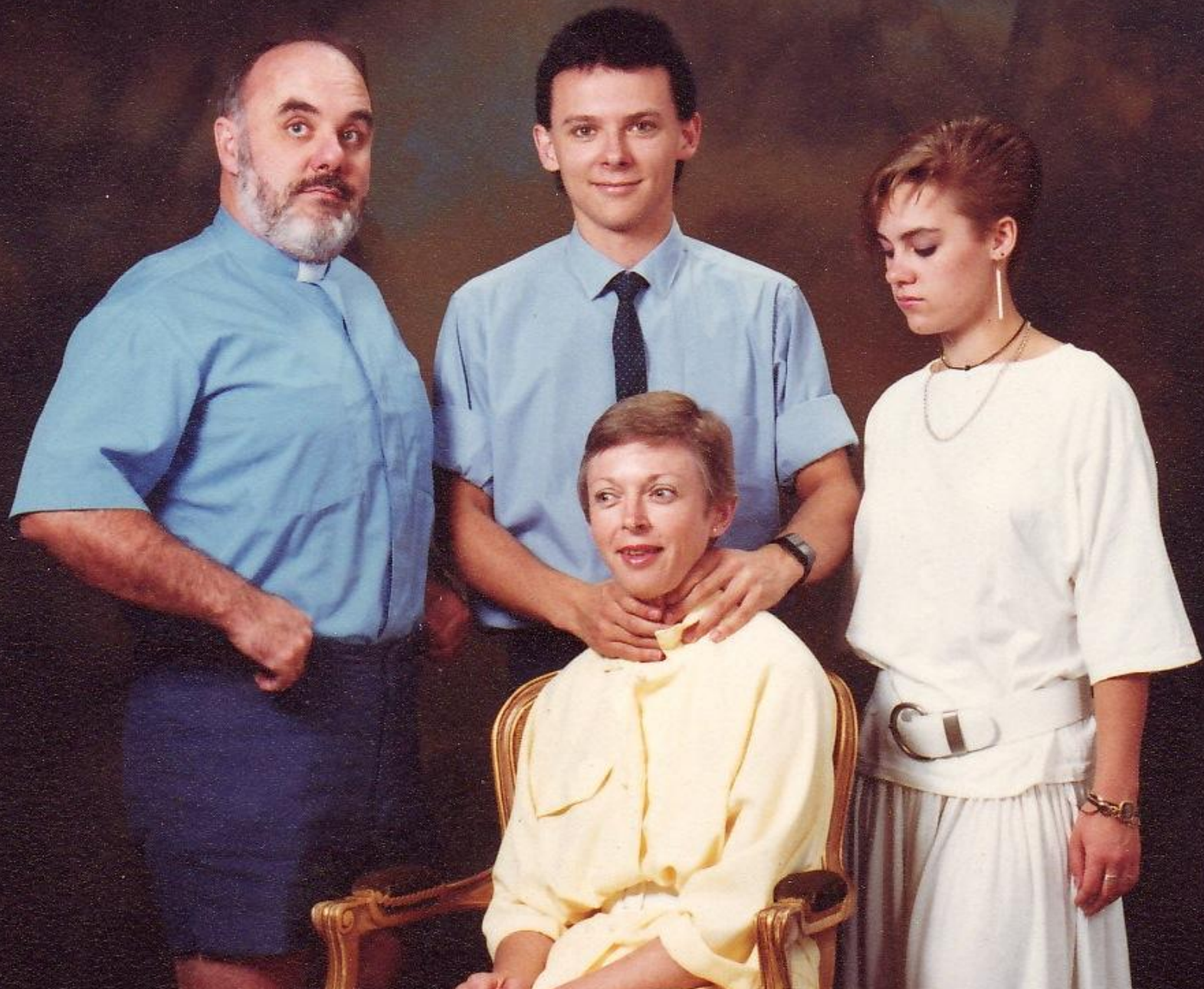
## **Ephesians 1:4–5**

Even before he made the world God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bring us to himself through Jesus Christ.









You don't turn your  
back on family, even  
when they do.



## **1 Thessalonians 5:14–15**

Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup>And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.



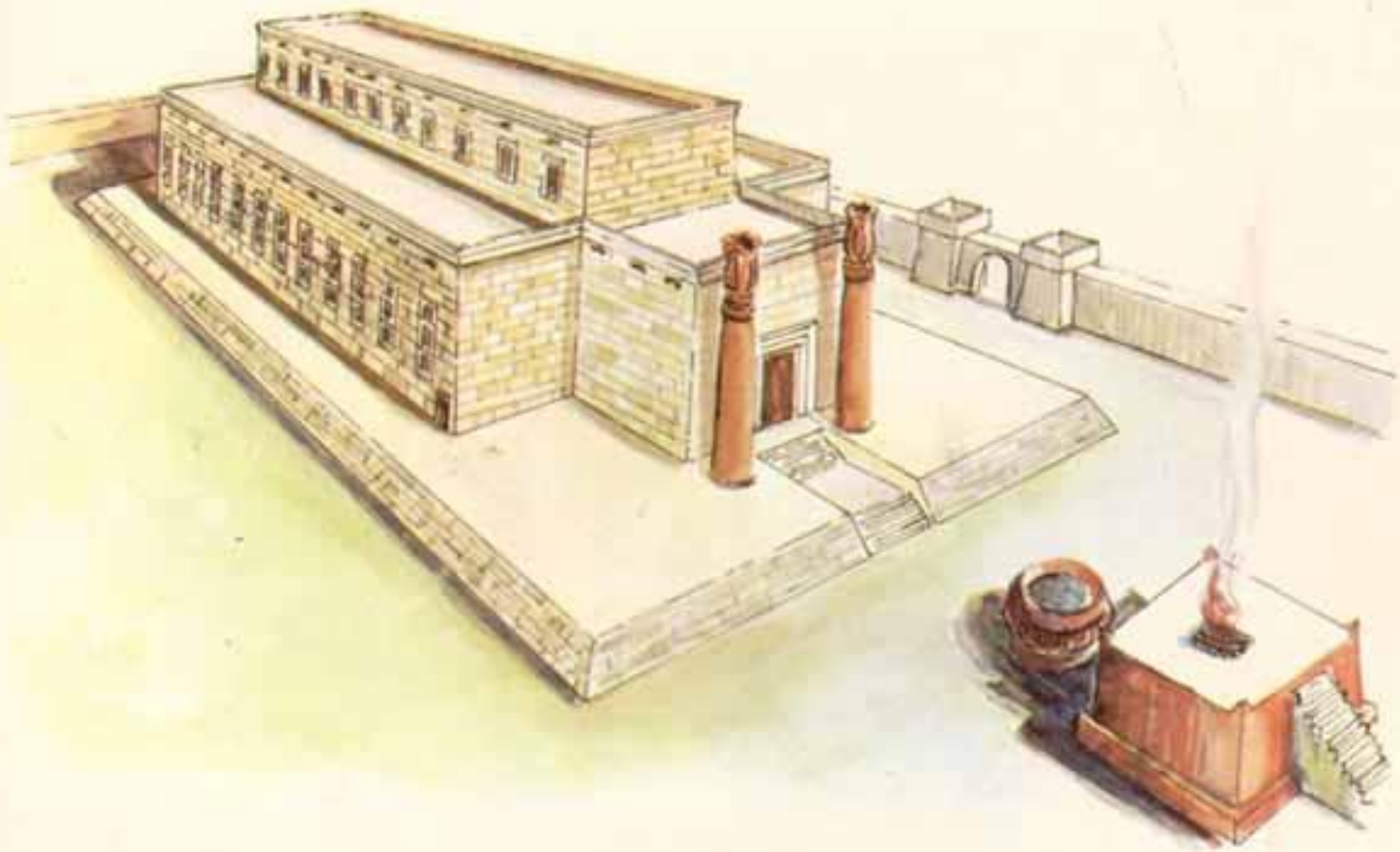
# The Church: A Temple



## **Ephesians 2:20–22**

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[The new temple] is a spiritual building (God's household) and an international community (embracing Gentiles as well as Jews), and it has a worldwide spread (wherever God's people are to be found). This is where God dwells. He is not tied to holy buildings but to holy people, to his own new society... He lives in them, individually and as a community.

John Stott





**Can people tell that God dwells  
among us?**



# The Church:

God's New Society

God's Family

God's Temple

