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The Naz Prayer Ministry



Who Are We and Why Are We Here?

Part 1: The “WE” Problem

While serving in Papua New Guinea, we often worshipped with missionaries from any variety of mission agencies and nationalities. Naturally our hymnodies were different, and the few songs that were common to our differing groups often had different tunes or arrangements.

We solved that problem by singing Scripture Songs. We literally opened our Bibles and sang the texts to tunes that had originated from gifted New Zealand Christians and only later were introduced in the States.

One of the most popular songs was from Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it” (KJV).

After four years we arrived back in the States and were surprised and pleased when a congregation began signing that same scripture song. I started to join in with gusto, then promptly fell silent. Everybody but me sang “I will rejoice and be glad in it.” “I?” What happened to “we?”

What appears as a simple change provides a glaring commentary on our worldview. We espoused a bold individualism in our culture, yet often we live much differently. On the one hand, our movies and literature make much of the man or woman who stands out from the crowd, who defies the norm and cuts a new path. One (even if slightly outdated) symbol of our individualism was the rugged cowboy who saves the day, kisses the girl, and rides off into the sunset with only his bedroll and his horse.

On the other hand, we easily and regularly fall victim to deceptive marketing ploys that entice us with products and services that must be outstanding because everybody or at least the “best” people are customers or clients. Clothing styles that break from the norm or some philosophy *de jour* supposedly will make us stand out from the crowd and step away from the status quo. We get sucked in and join the lemmings as they run off the cliff designed by Wall Street, all the while believing that our choices affirm our break with norms and display our individualism.

All that to say this: The series of posts that follow are about focusing on the “WE.” To bypass the “we” and function even subconsciously in the “I” mode is to miss in great measure the real sense of what “Church” means. The Church is not about the stand alone “you” or “me.” The Church is a Body.

We are the Church.

Taking Our Next Step Together

Lord God, open our eyes that we might see the vista of truth about Your Church. Help each of us to discover we are not fully defined until we are functioning parts of the “We” of the Body, the community of His grace.

