

The Ekklesia – Jesus’ Legislative Assembly

Jesus intended for his Church to be the agent bringing Heaven’s righteous rule to the earth. In Matthew chapter 16, Jesus asks his disciples an important question, “*Who do you say I am?*” Peter has the correct answer, “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*”

Jesus replies with a shocking statement, “*You are blessed, Simon, son of John because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock, I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.*” Matthew 16:16-19 (NLT)

Jesus declares he would build his church upon the foundation of our confession that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” This is the first time the word “church” is mentioned in Scripture. The Greek word used here for “church” is “ekklesia,” meaning “local legislative assembly.” It was a common term in Jesus’ day used to identify governmental groups such as city councils and regional assemblies.

Understanding the Ekklesia puts Jesus’ statement concerning “keys” into proper context. Just as a city council might create policies and laws governing the operation of a city, the local church is called to “forbid and permit” things on the earth, bringing alignment with the Kingdom of Heaven and with the Father’s perfect will for humanity. Further, the action of the Ekklesia overcomes the power of hell here on the earth. No institution other than the Church has this authority or carries this responsibility.

The Church accomplishes its “legislative assembly” calling in three primary ways: Prayer, Participation, and Leadership.

Prayer

We should never underestimate the power of prayer! Both individual and corporate prayer move heaven and cause shifts on the earth. Consider how Jesus instructed his disciples to pray: “*Pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.’*” Matthew 6:9,10 (NLT). Our prayers activate Heaven’s Kingdom here on the earth, bringing alignment with the Father’s will.

As the Church, we are called to partner spiritually with the Kingdom of Heaven as it intersects with every aspect of our lives in our communities. This includes the local economics, government, individual relationships, environment, and the spiritual forces (both good and evil) that affect all, to list a few. Prayer is the activator that opens earth to heaven, and the Ekklesia is the agent commissioned by God to pray.

As children of the Father, we have direct access to his Presence and the Courts of Heaven. Prayer and intercession are crucial to transforming our culture. By bringing issues before the Throne of God, we can get judgments from his court that bind Satan and directly affect the earth. (See Jesus' instruction on prayer in Luke 18:1-8.)

The Apostle Paul encourages his spiritual son, Timothy, *“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For, ‘There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.’”* 1 Timothy 2:1-5 (NLT)

Prayer is powerful. Prayer transforms culture. Prayer moves the hearts of leaders. Prayer opens divine opportunities and closes doors to our enemy that would “steal, kill, and destroy.” Prayer opens the way for Jesus' promised “rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10 (NLT)

Participation

The believers in Christ collectively make up the Church – the Ekklesia. Combining our prayers and participation in our communities – our unique circles of influence – transforms culture. The Apostle James, addressing the issue of active participation, says, *“I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”* James 2:18 (NLT). His point: We pray, *and* we do.

The idea of “taking the gospel outside the walls of the church” is not merely a call to evangelize but also to transform cultural. The enemy has worked diligently to paint the Ekklesia in a “spiritual” corner, trying to limit the church's authority to issues such as sin, eternal life, Bible study, etc. This bifurcation has led many Christians to look to the Church for their spiritual issues but seek out other institutions of humanity for everything else.

Government, in particular, has been considered “offsides” for the Church; however, this “separation of Church and state” is NOT God's plan (nor was it the plan of the Founding Fathers of our Nation). The book of Isaiah tells us, *“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6 (NLT).

All governing authority rests on the shoulders of Jesus. The Apostle Paul punctuates this saying, *“For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.”* Romans 13:1 (NLT) The Church, as the “body of Christ” (see with Christ himself as the head in Romans 12:4,5), was intended to inform and guide culture.

Our nation's founding fathers relied heavily upon the Bible as they crafted the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. They intended to create a republic whose citizens, relying on their biblical beliefs, actively participated in the functioning of the government. Today, as citizens of heaven and our nation, we are called to actively engage in the political process representing God's will for humanity.

We do this by (1) recognizing and accepting both our individual and corporate responsibility, (2) becoming informed on critical issues, (3) voting our conscience, and (4) holding a righteous standard of truth in love before those serving in public office.

Leadership

As the individuals comprising the Ekklesia, we each have a circle of influence. God gives each of us gifts, talents, abilities, and resources to be invested within our circle to advance his Kingdom. Accepting the charge to lead enables God to bless and expand our influence. The better individuals lead, the more impact they will have.

When Christians righteously lead in the areas of their family, businesses, educational systems, government, media, the arts, and church (often called the “seven mountains of society”), cultural transformation is the result.

The Apostle Paul said, “*So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’*” 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT). As ambassadors, we represent Heaven in the areas we lead, reconciling Heaven and Earth.

Ekklesia Action Group Dream Team

The Ekklesia Action Group comprises members of the Trinity Fellowship Church Dream Team committed to praying, participating, and leading as the Ekklesia to advance God’s Kingdom.

We value the principles of biblical grace and truth, recognizing Christ’s command to “*Love your neighbor as yourself*” guides our attitudes and actions. (See Matthew 22:39). In our core beliefs, we have unity. In our non-essential beliefs, we have liberty. In all our beliefs, we will exercise charity.

We are called to be a light shining into the darkness, being “*the salt of the earth ... [and] the light of the world.*” (Matthew 5:13,14). We will prioritize the advancement of his Kingdom over our own agendas, political ideologies, and personal aspirations.

Vision & Function

The Ekklesia Action Group’s purpose is to influence culture with a biblical worldview through:

- Facilitating Prayer & Intercession Opportunities
- Providing Opportunities for Education on Key Issues
- Encouraging Voting (registration & activation with a focus on platforms and voting records, not political parties)
- Promoting Awareness of Current Legislative Issues
- Publishing “Action Alerts” Calling the Ekklesia to Action

The focus of the Ekklesia Action Group will be on issues involving:

- **The Sanctity of Human Life**

“You made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.” Psalm 139:13,14 (NLT)

- **Biblical Marriage Between a Biological Male and Female**

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.” Genesis 2:24,25 (NLT)

- **Family**

“Then God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.’” Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

- **Gender**

“So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female, he created them.” Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

- **Israel**

“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.’” Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

- **Health & Wellness**

“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 (NLT)

- **Community Relationships**

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.” John 17:20,21 (NLT)

- **Religious Freedom**

“For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.”
1 Peter 2:16,17

Participation

There are three ways congregation members can participate in the Ekklesia Action Group:

- **Sign up for the mailing list** to receive weekly emails with specific prayers, action alerts, and educational opportunities.
- **Join the Trinity Fellowship Church Ekklesia Action Group private Facebook Group.** Please note that you must be a follower of the Trinity Fellowship Facebook account to join the private group. Adherence to the Group Policy will be required for continued participation in the group.
- **Join the Ekklesia Action Group Dream Team.** This team is active in our local community in various ways, including attending local school board meetings and city council meetings, assisting church members in registering to vote, and writing our legislators.

Resources

Following are a few helpful resources:

- Real Impact (www.realimpact.us) – equipping the church to stand for righteousness in the public square
- The Black Robe Regiment (YouTube: [TheBlackRobedRegiment](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBkRbRbRbRbRbRbRbRbRbRb) & <https://wallbuilders.com/>)
- Pastor Jack Hibbs Website: [Click Here](#)
- Tipping Point by Jimmy Evans: [Click Here](#)

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Ekklesia Action Group – Private Facebook Group Policy

The purpose of this private Facebook group is to provide the members with a forum for prayer, dialog, information sharing, and fellowship. Trinity Fellowship Church (“TFC”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit religious organization governed by its bylaws, including its Statement of Faith.

Membership in the Ekklesia Action Group private Facebook group is limited to individuals who (1) comply with both the rules of the group and (2) adhere to the beliefs of TFC detailed in the “Statement of Faith of Trinity Fellowship Church” (which may be found at <https://tfc.org/about-us/what-we-believe>). Failure to comply with group rules or promotion of beliefs that are contrary to the Statement of Faith will be cause for immediate removal from the Group.

Any information, external links, quotes, discussions, and the like are not vetted by TFC. Posts that violate the rules and policies of TFC will be removed. Members who regularly or severely violate the regulations or policies of TFC will be banned from the group.

The information group members share does not constitute an endorsement or approval by TFC. As such, TFC bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality, or ownership of content or that of external sites referenced.

- **Be Respectful.** Insulting, bullying, and using a condescending tone towards others is not acceptable.
- **No Advertising.** Don’t use the group to advertise your or someone else’s business, page, fundraiser, or website. These posts will be immediately removed.
- **Use the Search Option.** To avoid cluttering the group, please search the feed before asking a question. Someone might have already asked the same thing before.
- **Use English Only.** To ensure all group members understand you, please use only the English language.
- **Stick to the Topic.** We only allow posts and comments related to the group’s activity. Off-topic content will be removed.
- **No Spamming.** Asking the same question or posting the same comment repeatedly will result in a ban.
- **Report Rule-Breaking.** If you see a post/comment that violates our rules, report it to the admins. There is no need to respond to the author of said post/comment. We got it!
- **Think Before You Report.** Don’t report posts or comments that aren’t breaking the rules just because you don’t like or agree with their content.
- **Talk to the Admin Team.** If you have any questions or concerns or are experiencing issues in the group, please turn to one of the admins for help. That’s what we’re here for!

Trinity Fellowship Church Member-Candidate Policy

Trinity Fellowship Church does not endorse or contribute financially towards any candidate for public office. We do, however, commend and support, as a church family, members of Trinity who are running for public office. We will strive to introduce these member-candidates to the rest of the congregation through:

- Hosting member-candidates in the church lobby prior to elections. Here, congregation attendees are welcome to visit with the member-candidate, ask questions, and, if they so choose, take home materials supporting the candidate, including yard signs and flyers.
- Holding member-candidate forums where congregation members may submit questions to the member-candidate.

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