

# CHURCH AND MY TOUCH

Tanya Goffin

## WE ARE FAMILY

*"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight." (Romans 12:9-16)*

### Foundation is the Gospel: justification & sanctification

*"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Rom. 5:9-11)*

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

### Miracle of the church

Sanctification can only happen within the local church and God is glorified as we grow fruit. Effective 'planting' has to result in fruit.

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47)*

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)*

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)*

### Where there are people, there are always problems

Nevertheless we need each other. Examples of Jesus (Garden of Gethsemane) and the apostle Paul. We need encouragement, refreshment, comfort, to know that we matter, friendship, practical help, shelter from life's battles.

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41)*

### Apostle Paul (Romans 16):

- Phoebe (patron and helper to many)
- Priscilla and Aquila (risked their lives and church met in their home)
- Mary (who works hard to benefit others)
- Epenetus (first convert in Asia)
- Andronicus and Junia (in prison with Paul)
- Ampliatus (a dear friend in the Lord)
- Urbanus (co-worker, dear friend)
- Stachys, also Apelles (a good man approved by Christ)
- Aristobulus and his household
- Herodian (another friend)
- Narcissus and his household

- Tryphena and Tryphosa (working for the Lord)
- Persis (working hard for the Lord)
- Rufus and his mum (who has been a mum to me also)
- Also: Phlegon; Hermes; Patrobas; Hermas and all those who meet with them; Philologus; Julia; Nereus and his sister; Olympas and those who meet with them
- Other letters: Stephanas; Fortunatas and Achaicus; Tychicus (beloved brother and faithful helper); Onesimus (faithful and beloved brother); Aristarchus; Mark; Justus (a comfort to Paul in prison); Epaphros (prayer warrior); Luke (the beloved doctor); Nympha and the church that meets in her house; Timothy (his beloved son, bringer of coat and books)

*"Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments." (2 Timothy 4:9-13)*

*"When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all." (Titus 3:12-15)*

- Erastus
- Trophimus (sick in Miletus)
- Eubulus
- Pudens
- Linus
- Claudia
- Zenas the lawyer
- Artemas

### **Greetings, greetings, greetings!**

- Importance of encouragement
- Turning up to things
- The gift of time for others
- The challenge of unity
- Praying big prayers for people

*"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:15-23)*

*"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19)*