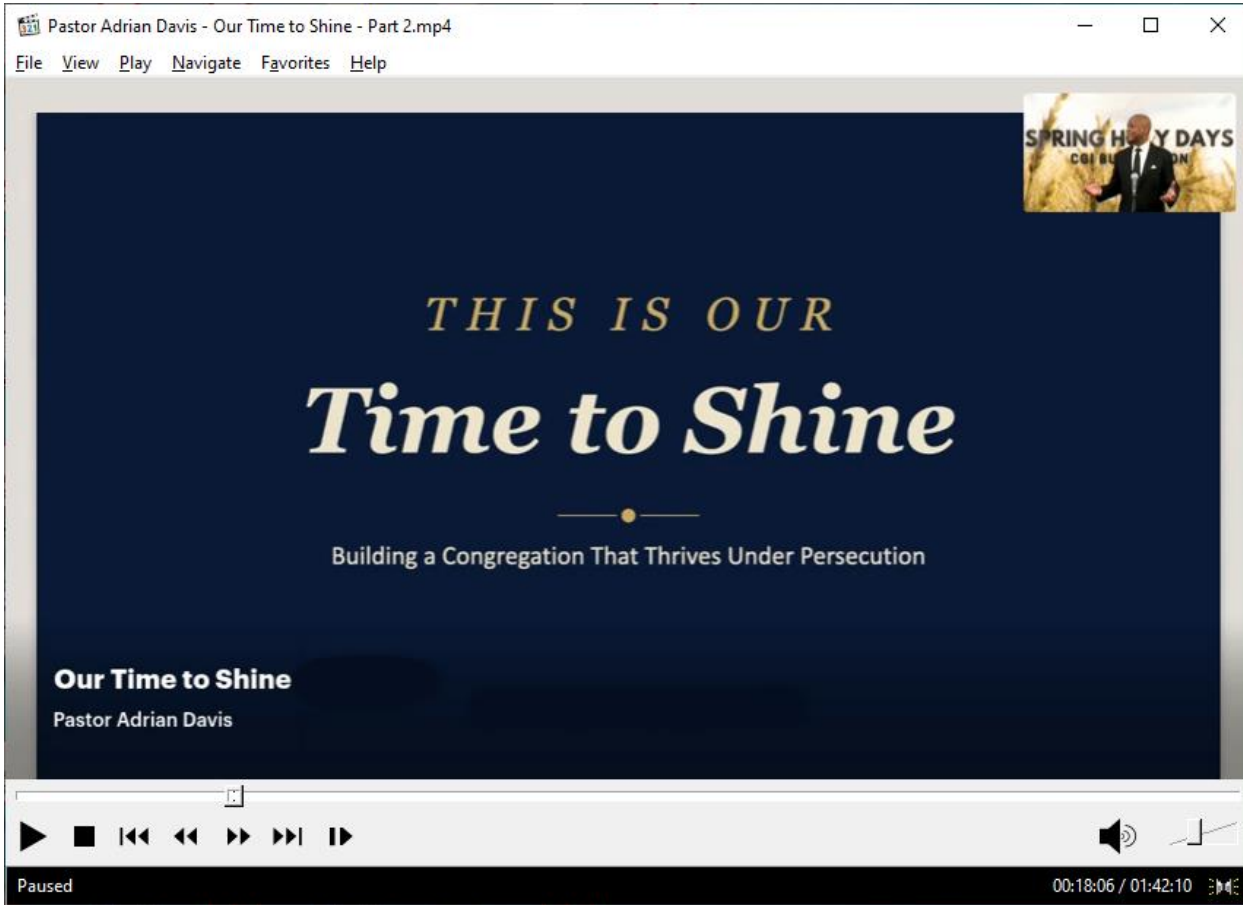


Our Time to Shine - Adrian Davis

Transcript - Part 1



13:48: The title of the message is Our Time to Shine, which will be part one by Adrian Davis.

16:45: I was intrigued by this hymn that you chose, Deacon Jan, page 67.

17:02: Till Christ comes, we'll endure, living God's way, true and pure.

17:06: This is actually what I want to talk about today.

17:09: And I see here it says, Earth shall grow dark and drear.

17:15: Jacob's trouble shall appear.

17:17: That's what I want to talk about today.

17:20: Till the last trumpet call, God will see us through.

17:24: So I was quite taken by those lyrics.

17:28: Your daughter, OK, well done.

17:31: You, you were inspired and you inspired me.

17:34: that's exactly what I want to talk about is endurance.

17:39: And I think we can have, can you hear me OK, Mike?

17:41: Yeah, I think we can have.

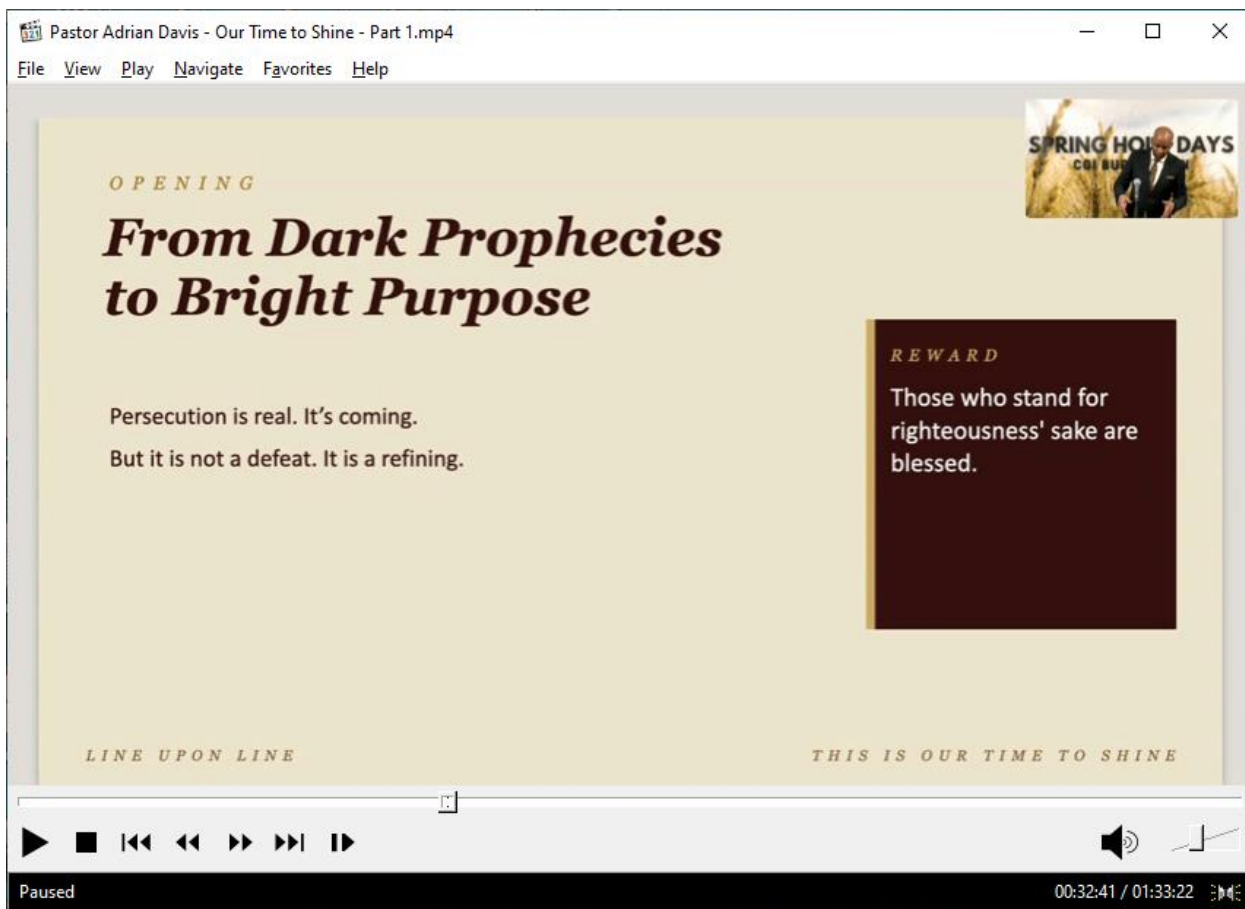
17:45: A view of endurance that is passive.

17:49: You just have to hang on, right?

17:51: It's like you're holding onto a rope and you're enduring.

17:54: You just have to hold on till the end.

17:56: That's not what God is asking of us.
18:00: He's asking not passive endurance, but active endurance.
18:04: We've got to be at work right up until he returns and to be found so doing.
18:09: He wants us actively working.
18:11: And so there's an assumption in the hymn.
18:15: That we are actually doing His will.
18:18: And then yes, he will look after us, but if we're just passively enduring.
18:22: No sense of urgency, then I don't think we can assume that God will look after us till the end.
18:29: I think we have to be in His will and to endure.
18:35: We need structure.
18:37: And when I was a much younger man, I had nothing to do with engineers, but I had a project with an engineer, a very elite engineering company in Canada.
18:48: And I noticed that 80-90% of the men and the women had an iron ring.
18:55: On their finger on on their baby finger, pinky finger, and I just asked, what is that?
19:01: Because I didn't know what it was and it turns out that there is a story behind this ring.
19:08: Some will wear it on the left hand, some will wear it on the right hand.
19:12: The point is they have to wear it on their dominant hand.
19:15: Whichever hand they are going to be drawing with, it needs to be on the pinky finger so that it drags.
19:22: And it scrapes And it reminds them of a tragedy.
19:27: And this tragedy Took place on August 29th.
19:32: 2007.
19:34: When the Quebec Bridge collapsed during construction.
19:40: Calculation errors had been spotted weeks before, but they were dismissed as not serious.
19:47: So there were flaws in the calculations.
19:51: They were known, but they were not dealt with because they felt it wasn't serious.
19:57: In 15 seconds, the entire bridge fell into the Saint Lawrence River.
20:05: 75 workers were killed.
20:10: In 1916.
20:14: 9 years later, it collapsed the second time.
20:18: And this time it killed 17 people.
20:25: So out of that tragedy, the Canadian engineers created a ritual.
20:30: That every graduate would receive the Iron Ring.
20:35: And it would be worn on the little finger of the working hand, so that every time the engineer signed a drawing, every time they turned a wrench, the ring would rub against their hand and remind them, structure is not theoretical.
20:51: Structure is not theoretical.
20:55: When structure fails, people die.
20:59: When structure fails, people die, and so maybe you can.
21:04: Bring up my slide Structure is what I want to talk about today.



21:08: So this is a two-part series.

21:10: I want to talk about structure in part one, and I want to talk about power in part two.

21:17: You'll remember that Last week and the week before, I had a two-part series on the beast in the Middle East in prophecy.

21:27: And the 2 weeks before that, Deacon Jan had a 2-week series on replacements.

21:33: And separation theology.

21:35: And how all these tie together as we're heading into Pentecost.

21:41: Is that we face some very dark prophecies.

21:45: If we are real and take God at His word, Jacob's trouble is at hand.

21:52: And and the whole world is heading into trouble.

21:54: It's getting very, very dark, and it's going to be dark for the church.

22:01: Particularly, it's going to be dark for Judah.

22:05: The house of Israel in the Promised Land is going to be dark for Jerusalem if we subscribe.

22:11: And many of us do, to replacement theology, the more Jerusalem is in the crosshairs, the more Judah is in trouble.

22:20: The more indifferent we become Because they don't matter.

22:24: We've replaced them.

22:26: If we move from replacement theology to separation theology where we acknowledge there are outstanding promises for the nation of Israel, well, it's separation theology.

22:37: They don't need Christ.

22:39: So no matter what is happening to them, we don't feel the need to warn them.

22:44: So these are tied together in that.

22:48: If we do God's will.
22:51: Of warning Israel, warning the house of Israel, warning the house of Judah, we are going to come under.
22:57: Attack we are going to be highlighted and targeted for persecution.
23:01: But we will, we will only do the work if we reject.
23:06: Replacement theology.
23:08: And if we reject separation theology.
23:12: This work is going to be hard.
23:15: So I'm, I'm telling you this.
23:17: Today is much like yesterday and tomorrow is most likely will be like today, but the future is very different.
23:24: And the future is going to be harsh.
23:25: I don't know when it will come, but it's on its way.
23:28: I don't know the ETA, but it's on its way.
23:32: And we're going to face difficult times.
23:35: What did he say here?
23:37: Structure, that the lesson of wearing the ring is structure is not theoretical.
23:43: When structure fails, people die.
23:46: The church needs Structural integrity.
23:51: And that is in fact what I want to talk about in this first part.
23:55: We need structural integrity so that we can receive fully the gifts of the Holy Spirit and that we can deploy them optimally.
24:03: If we don't have structure, we won't be able to do this.
24:05: Let's begin in John chapter 16.
24:09: John chapter 16.
24:21: So that hymn was very fascinating to me.
24:23: So we need to have this.
24:26: Dual focus of seeing the reality of the darkness ahead.
24:30: And simultaneously being excited.
24:33: Knowing that we are actually here for a purpose.
24:35: God has actually called us.
24:36: He's placed us.
24:37: He's handpicked us.
24:38: He's put us in this role for glory.
24:41: This, this is our opportunity, this is our time to shine.
24:45: Just to bring a, a focal point on the last two sermons around the beast and the Middle East in prophecy here in John 16 and verse 1, Christ warning his disciples, sharing reality with them, not wanting them to be ignorant of the difficult days ahead.
25:00: He says these things I have spoken unto you, that you should not be offended.
25:06: At the same time, he says, many will be offended.
25:10: The whack the the the love of many will wax cold.
25:13: Brother will betray brother.
25:14: He, he says all of this, he tells us this is what's gonna happen, but he's telling us ahead of time so that we won't be offended.

25:21: That we will actually understand that the nature of the times that we're heading into, and he says, they shall put you out of the synagogues, out of the assemblies, they want nothing to do with us.

25:31: So the more we are in alignment with God's will, the more we will be hated for his name's sake.

25:37: That people want nothing to do with us.

25:39: We have to be prepared for this, and when this happens, without structural integrity, we cannot endure.

25:46: Without structural integrity, we cannot have the power of the Holy Spirit released to face whatever is coming.

25:52: And so he said, they'll put you out of the synagogues, yes.

25:55: The time comes, so I don't know the ETA, but Christ said it's coming.

26:00: The time comes that whosoever kills you.

26:04: will think that he's doing God's service.

26:07: There's no fanatic worse than a religious fanatic.

26:11: These are the worst.

26:13: Because the conviction that they are doing God's work drives them to do the most despicable evil and feel good about it.

26:22: And so this is what we're heading into.

26:25: Let's now go to Matthew 5.

26:33: Just a couple of scriptures, just to give us context and and connect sort of this connective tissue to the last two sermons on the beast and the Middle East and prophecy.

26:43: What does it mean for us as the church?

26:45: Matthew 5 And verse 10.

26:50: Christ says, and why we should be excited to be in alignment with His will, Christ says, verse 10, Matthew 5, blessed.

27:00: Are they?

27:02: which are persecuted This is a blessing This is from from God's perspective, this is something we should be honored.

27:10: We should be excited about, he says, blessed are they which are persecuted, except that I, I didn't read that correctly.

27:18: Let me read it correctly.

27:20: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

27:24: That's the persecution.

27:25: Many will be persecuted.

27:27: We need to be persecuted because we're in alignment with his will.

27:31: We, we know what is right from his perspective, and that is righteousness.

27:36: And because we are in alignment with righteousness and with his will, that's why we're persecuted and that's why we're blessed.

27:44: For theirs or ours is the kingdom of heaven.

27:48: So God is expecting us to go through this with a vision of the kingdom of heaven.

27:54: Blessed are you When men shall revile you.

27:59: You're going to be hated.

28:01: They're going to revile you.

28:03: And anybody who hears any media reports about us, is their, their conclusion is, well, they deserve that.

28:10: They're such horrible people.

28:12: There will be a narrative around us that will make us despicable.

28:17: They'll revile us.

28:19: And shall say all manner of evil against you falsely.

28:25: It's false, but you can't defend yourself.

28:28: You have no control over the media.

28:30: The media spins the story and the narrative any way they want, and everybody is happy for the persecution that we're facing.

28:37: But Christ says it's false.

28:40: If we're doing it for his sake.

28:44: That means that we understand his purpose, we understand his vision, we understand his word, and we're not making up hallucinations and calling it the gospel.

28:56: We're, we're preaching his gospel.

28:58: And it's for his sake we're hated.

29:01: He says, rejoice.

29:04: It's, it's hard.

29:05: We're, we're like his disciples who, when he's sharing with them what's happening, they're just mournful.

29:11: Because they're thinking about themselves.

29:14: Crisis say do the work.

29:16: And have the vision.

29:19: Understand my loyalty to you and rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

29:27: And, and words fail me.

29:28: I don't know how to articulate this, but there is a reward in heaven, and Chris Christ is the creator is saying it's great, mega for you.

29:38: Rejoice, see past all of this.

29:42: For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

29:46: And it's funny when you meet people who want to be prophets, it's not a picnic.

29:51: It's not a picnic.

29:54: Unless you're a false prophet.

29:56: And one more scripture for our setup here.

30:00: And it's James 1.

30:03: James 1 So we've seen that there's gonna be religious fanatics that believe they're doing him service by killing us and persecuting us, but Christ says rejoice.

30:16: As long as you're in alignment with my will, as long as this is false and it's for my sake, for my purpose, my covenant purpose.

30:27: James The recipient of this teaching then goes on to teach his own lessons, and he says this in verse 2, my brethren.

30:37: Having been taught by Christ, count it all joy when you fall into different trials.

30:43: Knowing this, this is what we have to have in our minds.

30:48: That the trying of your faith works patience.

30:52: And then let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

30:59: God paid a high price for us.

31:02: There's a high purchase price that he paid for us.

31:05: But he didn't buy us.

31:08: As is You know you can go into a shop and it's a big sign as is, you buy it as it is and don't come back.

31:16: He bought us 2B.

31:19: He bought us with a vision.

31:20: Every one of us as he as he handpicked you.

31:23: He didn't he didn't handpick you as you are.

31:26: He handpicked you with his will and his vision and his hope of what you can be.

31:31: And so he brings you into his body.

31:34: And he's developing you into his vision of what you can be.

31:39: But that development requires trial.

31:43: It requires persecution.

31:45: It requires refinement, so let patience have her perfect work so that you can become the full human being that he has in mind for you so that you can become the god being.

31:57: In his family that he has in mind for you, so we are in the process of becoming Individually And collectively In fact, we cannot become fully who God has in mind for us without each other.

32:13: And that cannot endure without structural integrity.

32:19: Without, without structure, people die.

32:23: And so the vision that God has for us is phenomenal.

32:28: But we can fail each other.

32:31: There can be calculations.

32:33: that we know are wrong.

32:36: But we ignore them.

32:38: And then the whole thing collapses.

32:40: So this song, it's a very pretty song about God will see us through and everything's gonna be fine.

32:47: Which is true if there are no miscalculations.

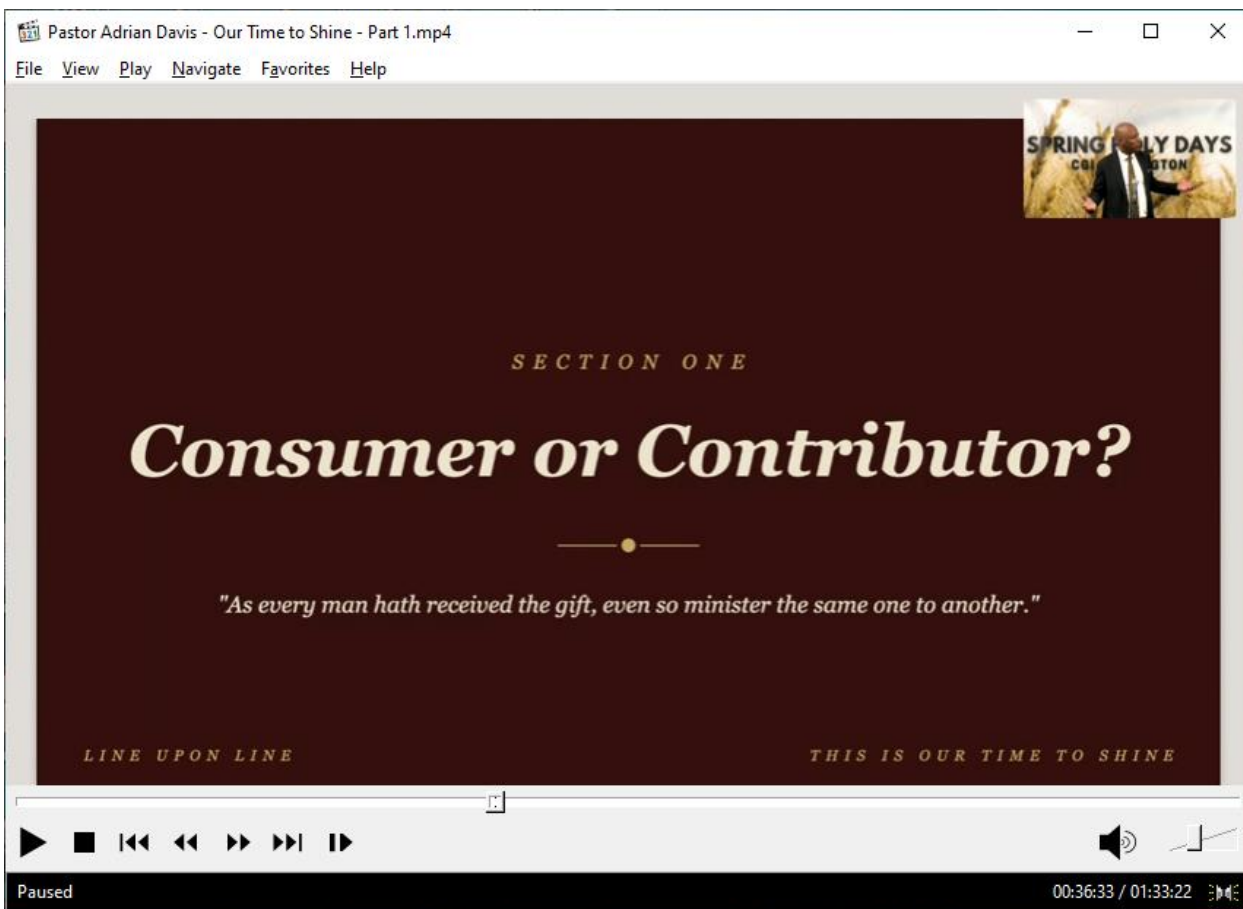
32:52: If we have flaws and we're ignoring them, it's not true.

32:56: We we we have to go through the pressure.

32:59: It's part of us individually and collectively becoming the vision that God has for us.

33:06: But if there are miscalculations, if there are flaws, and we ignore them, Sorry, The whole bridge will collapse in 15 seconds.

33:16: If I can go to my next slide.



33:18: Which begs the question, As we sit here today, Whether here physically or joining us online.

33:30: It begs the question, what kind of member are we?

33:35: What kind of Christian are we?

33:38: So as we sit here listening to this, this sermon, are we a consumer Christian?

33:44: Or a contributor Christian.

33:47: We're one or the other.

33:49: Which one is it?

33:52: Let's go to Ezekiel chapter 33.

33:55: As we try to answer this question, what kind of Christian am I?

34:03: Because God has a vision.

34:05: For us individually.

34:07: For the assembly And he paid a high price for us to become that vision.

34:14: But we cannot become that vision without each other.

34:17: Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.

34:20: We need each other to realize the vision that God has for us.

34:24: So as we assemble together.

34:27: What kind of body part are we?

34:29: Are we a consumer Christian or a contributor Christian?

34:34: Ezekiel chapter 33.

34:37: Ezekiel chapter 33, drop down to verse 30 and look at the experience that the prophet Ezekiel had.

34:45: With his audience.

34:48: Ezekiel 33:30, also you, son of man, the children of your people still are talking against you by the walls.

35:01: And in the doors of the houses or they're talking about you by the walls.

35:06: And in the doors of the houses, and they speak one to another.

35:09: It's fellowship.

35:10: They're talking one to another.

35:14: Everyone to his brother.

35:16: Sounds so far so good.

35:18: What are they talking about?

35:20: Saying, come, I pray please come, come and hear what is the word that comes forth from Yehovah.

35:31: You gotta hear this guy.

35:32: This is amazing.

35:34: Come, come, come, listen.

35:36: You've got to hear that we're getting the word of the Lord.

35:40: And they come unto you.

35:42: As the people come And they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not do them.

35:52: They didn't come to contribute.

35:54: They came to consume This is a cheap entertainment.

35:58: It's really nice how he weaved that message together.

36:03: They hear your words, they just won't do them.

36:07: For with their mouth, they show much love.

36:11: But their heart goes after their covetousness.

36:15: They're not growing.

36:18: Christ paid a price for us.

36:20: If we're not growing, we're sitting in human nature.

36:24: We're sitting in our carnal nature, anybody can hide carnal nature.

36:27: In fact, we all do it.

36:29: I, I don't, we, we would be rejected if everybody could see the raw human nature.

36:33: So as we try to get control over it, we have a bit of a persona.

36:40: The question is, are we really tackling the human nature?

36:44: And are we really growing into the vision God has for us, or is the whole thing theater?

36:50: Well, here the whole thing is theater.

36:54: With their mouth they show much love, but if the character, if they're covetous.

36:59: That love is fake There's a miscalculation here.

37:04: It's not going to hold up.

37:06: When this congregation faces the pressure that's coming, it's brother will betray brother, just like that, and everybody knew.

37:13: The miscalculation was there, we just didn't think it was serious because we didn't have a vision of what's coming.

37:18: The pressure that's coming And lo, verse 32, you are unto them as a very lovely song of one that has a pleasant voice.

37:30: This is amazing.

37:31: I could listen to this guy all day.

37:33: Let's come back next week, bring your friends.
 37:36: But we're not gonna do anything.
 37:38: We're not taking this seriously.
 37:41: And lo, you are unto them, as a very lovely song of one that has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument.
 37:48: There's some competence here, for they hear your words, but they do not do them.
 37:55: This is what I mean by a consumer.
 37:58: They're coming to be entertained.
 38:01: They're coming to be stimulated.
 38:05: They're they're coming to intellectually grapple with ideas, and it's stimulating, but they're not going to do anything.
 38:12: I'm just here to get If you go to the next slide.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 1.mp4

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TWO MODELS OF CHURCH

Household or Marketplace

THE CONSUMER MODEL	THE HOUSEHOLD MODEL
The church as a marketplace "What does this church offer me?"	The church as a family "What is my work in this body?"
ROLE Customer	ROLE Member by adoption
POSTURE Receive and evaluate	POSTURE Receive and also give
MEASURE Personal satisfaction	MEASURE Edification of the whole
WHEN HARD Shop elsewhere	WHEN HARD Forbear in love
FRUIT Spiritual atrophy	FRUIT Maturity and gifts in motion

"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

Paused 00:38:47 / 01:33:22

38:20: What we have to ask ourselves is, what kind of congregation are we?
 38:25: What kind of congregation do we want to be?
 38:29: There's the consumer model.
 38:31: And there's the household model.
 38:34: With the consumer model, the church is a marketplace.
 38:38: It's, I'm here to get something from the church.
 38:41: With the household model, the church is a family.
 38:45: It's not like a family.
 38:47: It is a family.
 38:49: This is a household And it has structure.

38:54: And as a family, everybody has a role to play.
38:58: With the church as a marketplace, I'm the customer.
39:01: And the customer is king.
39:04: So I'm coming to hear, play a lovely song.
39:07: And if there's a better song somewhere else, well, I'll go somewhere else.
39:10: And maybe there's a bit of fine tuning you can do on that song.
39:13: I didn't like the way you hit that particular note.
39:15: Next time try a little harder.
39:17: So I'm here to receive the lovely song, and I'm going to evaluate it.
39:22: And not just the song, I'm gonna evaluate everybody.
39:25: I'm looking at the whole congregation with a very critical eye, and I'm trying to decide, are you guys good enough for me?
39:32: This is the consumer model.
39:34: With the household model.
39:37: I'm not a customer.
39:39: I've been adopted into the family.
39:41: I'm a member of the family.
39:43: I'm a member of the covenant community, and I'm not just here to receive.
39:47: And then critically judge.
39:50: It's give and receive.
39:51: It's a, it's a two-way street.
39:53: I'm blessed.
39:54: I'm edified by you.
39:56: But I also have a responsibility to edify you.
39:59: And we're edifying each other in love.
40:03: So when times get hard, when times get difficult, when, when human beings collide and have collisions and conflict, as is normal, if I'm the customer, I don't like that very much.
40:14: I'm gonna go shopping.
40:15: And find another congregation that suits me better until it doesn't, and then I'll go shopping again.
40:21: If I'm adopted into the family.
40:27: There's no shopping.
40:28: What's that saying?
40:29: Oh, you choose your friends, you don't choose your family.
40:31: I'm here.
40:33: It wouldn't even occur to me to go anywhere.
40:36: I've been brought into covenant.
40:39: Covenant is binding.
40:41: There's there's no way out of covenant.
40:44: And so I have to forbear.
40:46: In love and let patience have her perfect work.
40:52: So what is the fruit Of the consumer Christian.
40:57: Atrophy.
41:00: They're not doing anything.
41:01: They're intellectually stimulated, but they're not doing anything.

41:05: And so the muscle, the spiritual muscle atrophies.
41:08: And they become useless to God and useless to everybody.
41:11: In fact, much of the congregational problems, they're the source of.
41:17: But they would never see that.
41:19: So they project onto everybody.
41:22: Whereas the household model.
41:26: The church, the, the, the contribute the Christian as a contributor and as a mem a contributing member, what's the fruit of, of participating in the household growth.
41:38: Maturity You start to see their gifts appearing and growing and having more impact.
41:47: And as a result of their contribution, the congregation is growing into the vision that God has for us.
41:55: 1 Corinthians 11.
42:20: 1 Corinthians 11.
42:24: Verse 17, there's so much here, I just took a couple of verses.
42:30: Pulses to the Corinthian household.
42:35: Maybe I should say the Corinthian marketplace.
42:38: These were consumer Christians.
42:41: They were in it for what they can get.
42:43: And what glory they can get.
42:46: 1 Corinthians 11:17.
42:48: Now in this that I declare unto you, so he's changing the subject, so there was something that that that was praiseworthy, but now he's changing the subject.
42:56: This, I praise you not.
42:58: That you come together, not for the better, but for the worse.
43:04: So yes, we must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.
43:08: Unfortunately, congregations can find themselves in a position.
43:13: And I think we've worked hard not to be in this position, but congregations, and I've seen it, can find themselves in a position where it would be better for them to break that command.
43:22: The the lesser evil is for you not to assemble.
43:26: Because when you assemble, and you bite and devour one another, and destroy the body of Christ, It's better for you that a noose is around your neck and you're thrown into the, the sea.
43:39: So there are congregational dynamics of consumer Christianity that it's better not to assemble.
43:48: For first of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there be heretics among you.
43:53: And I partly believe it.
43:55: Now, let's go to chapter 12.
43:59: And I've spoken about verse one before, where the translators realize that the Greek demands a noun, that spiritual is an adjective, it has to modify something, so they put in gifts.
44:12: Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant, that's a mistake.
44:17: In the context of the whole chapter, the better translation and the noun that should be supplied is now concerning spiritual members.
44:25: I would not have you ignorant.
44:27: We should be able to discern each other.

44:29: We should know who's the foot, who's the eye, who's the ear, who's the nose, who's the hand.

44:34: Don't be ignorant about where you fit and where your brethren fit in the body.

44:41: You know that you were Gentiles carried away onto these dumb idols even as you were led.

44:46: Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

44:55: So there's an acid test.

44:57: We know who's who's in the body and who isn't.

45:00: Now there are diversities of gifts, but it's the same spirit.

45:04: Sometimes it's hard for us to understand each other.

45:07: Because we're looking at something from a different perspective, because we're gifted in a different way, and therefore we have a different experience.

45:15: Your gift gives you a different perspective, leads you to have different experiences, and therefore you're going to preserve a situation differently than I do.

45:24: It doesn't mean that you're accursed or I'm accursed.

45:27: We, we acknowledge Jesus is Lord.

45:31: We have the Holy Spirit.

45:33: We just have to not be ignorant of spiritual members.

45:36: And how to discern.

45:43: Verse 7 he says the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit everyone.

45:51: This, this is, this is a A condemnation Of consumer Christianity.

45:58: If I come just to consume, this verse condemns me.

46:03: I've taken the precious spirit of God.

46:06: For which God paid a high price to give this to me, and I'm just coming here to be entertained.

46:13: I'm just logging on and watching to be entertained, but I'm still in bitter debate with my brethren.

46:19: I'm still holding grudges from decades ago.

46:22: And I can't let go, but I still take the Passover, still counting to Pentecost.

46:28: And this is saying consumer Christianity is for the world.

46:33: Here we have contributor Christians, because if you have the Holy Spirit, the reason you have it is to contribute to the body, to edify the body.

46:42: And then he goes on to explain that different members have different gifts, but verse 11, all of these different gifts in the different members, all these work that one and selfsame spirit, they're exercising the same spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

46:59: So he is watching us.

47:03: Evaluating us and then giving us spiritual capabilities based on our uniqueness.

47:11: For as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body, this is also how Christ is.

47:20: In verse 18, this is the main thing I wanted to say.

47:24: But now You might not understand all of this and the the operation fully, but here's the conclusion of the matter.

47:31: It is God That has set you and set me as members, don't be ignorant of spiritual members, and this is the reality of spiritual members, that it is God the Father who sets the members, every one of them in the body as it has pleased him.

47:49: So we're here In CGI Burlington because it pleased God to put us here.

47:55: And our brethren who are joining us wherever you are, God has set you there.

48:01: But he didn't set us there to be as is.

48:05: It's not like, hey, here I am, take me as you find me.

48:09: He sent me here with a vision of what I can become.

48:13: And he said you here with a vision of what you can become, and then he has orchestrated it in such a way that I cannot become his vision of what he has for me, unless you become his vision of what he has for you.

48:26: The more you become who you are meant to be, the more you can help me become who I'm meant to be, the more I can help you become who you're meant to be.

48:34: It's an operation by God.

48:36: And it's spiritual and it's, it's the calculation is perfect.

48:40: If there's any miscalculation, it's us.

48:43: When we're not cooperating with this process and we ignore it because we don't think it's a big deal.

48:49: When in fact what's coming, what we are going to face as a church, what did Christ say?

48:54: That I'm telling you this ahead of time.

48:56: So that when it happens, you won't be offended.

48:59: Well, if he's telling us ahead of time, we've got to get rid of the cracks.

49:02: It's like let's have that spiritual ring on our pinky finger to remind us.

49:07: When structure is flawed, people die.

49:10: And whatever we're building here.

49:13: There are, there's a next generation that's going to inherit this.

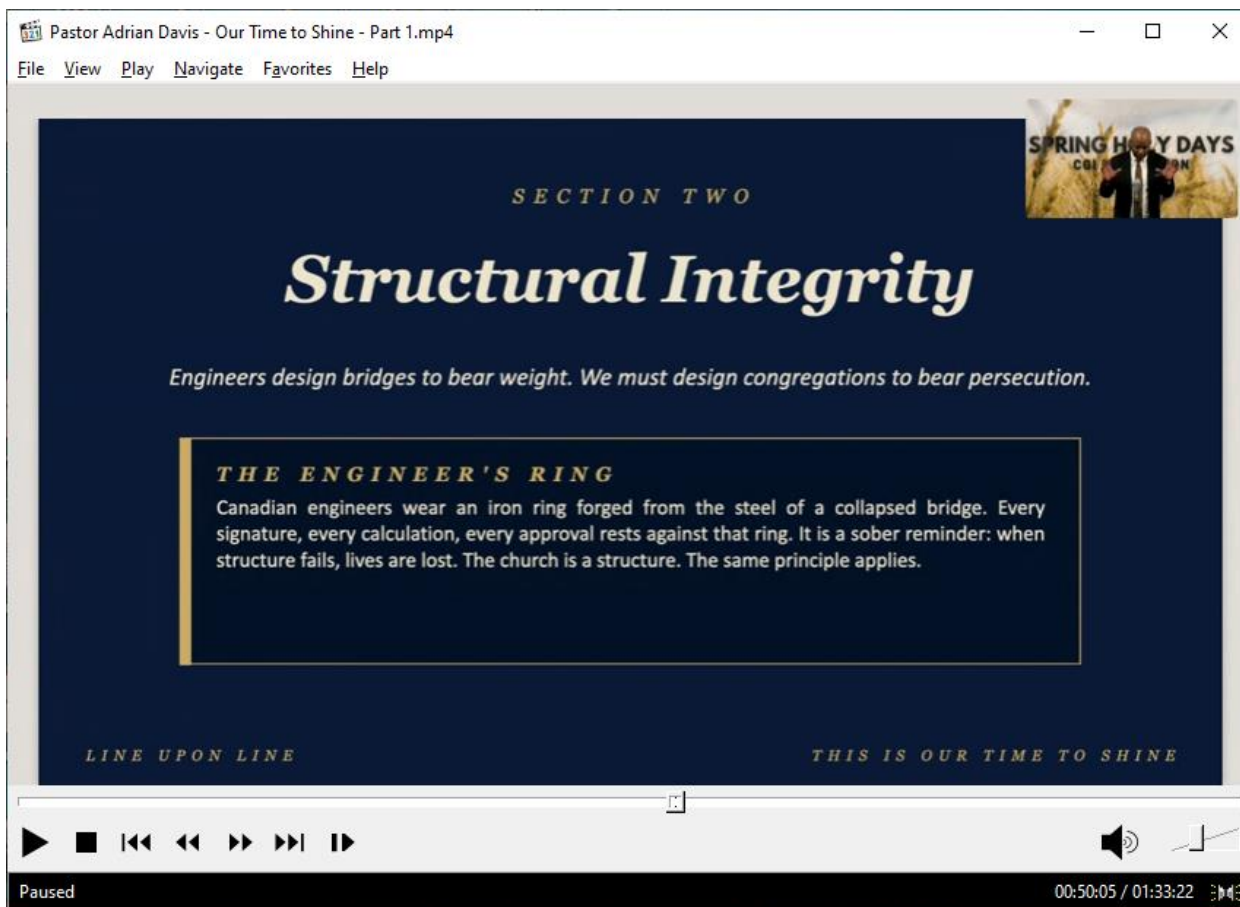
49:18: Do we give it to them with flaws?

49:20: Or do we give them a robust model and a robust structure that when they come in, they will flourish?

49:27: And they can then take this to the finish line.

49:29: Romans 12.

49:42: Let's go to the next slide.



49:48: So The spiritual engineering ring that we wear.

49:54: Is about structural integrity.

49:56: There's a way that congregations need to be structured.

50:01: And here in Romans 12, And so again You don't see the structure because it's spiritual.

50:10: But it's real.

50:12: And the consequences of having weakness in the structure is also real and devastating.

50:20: The benefits of having solid structure is as we grow into the future, we will flourish.

50:28: It will be miraculous.

50:30: People are gonna be saying like, who's behind this work?

50:33: Who are these people?

50:35: What, what, what, what size organization is doing this?

50:39: And when they find out, they'll be stunned.

50:41: They'll say that's not possible.

50:44: Not only that, they'll see a joy.

50:48: They'll see a joy in us.

50:49: Structure protects joy.

50:52: And I can, I can speak firsthand.

50:54: Because my family didn't have structure.

50:57: The structure of my family was blown apart.

51:01: And God be praised for my mother and everything that you many of you have met my mom.

51:06: beautiful woman did, did her, her, did an amazing job as a single parent.

51:12: But she was a single parent and the structure was broken.

51:16: And in our family there really was no authority.

51:20: As we grew up, as we became teenagers, there was no authority and there was no structure.

51:26: And it damaged the family.

51:29: To this day there's still some alienation in my family, but we have grown up, we've matured, and much of that alienation has been healed.

51:37: But there's, there's still a legacy.

51:40: There's still a legacy, and there are mental health issues in my family.

51:44: Because of structure being shattered.

51:48: As a young man, I gave up everything for God.

51:54: I was thinking about this the other day, that many people, they hit rock bottom and then they turn to God.

52:00: That wasn't my case.

52:02: I was in the prime of life.

52:04: I was just frustrated that nobody could tell me what the purpose of life was.

52:09: And so I, I chose to, to seek God and lose everything.

52:14: But he promises that anybody who has given up mother, father, sisters, brothers, anything for my sake, I'll restore it to him a hundredfold.

52:23: And, and this has been my experience.

52:26: That God brought my wife and I together.

52:29: Her family life is the opposite of mine.

52:32: It has structure Stability And so today, her siblings are 60, 70 years old and their structure.

52:43: Everyone can get together, not just all the siblings, but the next generation and the generation after that, all under one roof, all at peace.

52:51: And when I go there We all, all the men sit together.

52:56: So think of a dozen 14 men talking politics, and none of them agree with me.

53:02: My, my opinions are markedly different from theirs.

53:07: And this kind of talk destroys families.

53:10: Families fall apart over politics.

53:14: Not this family.

53:16: It's a hot debate.

53:18: It's sharp collisions on points of view and ideology.

53:22: And when we're done, hugs, shake hands, see you next time.

53:27: They can't wait for me to come back.

53:28: And we all sit around again and and talk.

53:32: Because there's just this structure.

53:34: And, and when I've seen maybe the two sisters, two sisters get into a bit of conflict, and one's offside, everyone rallies and says, you're offside.

53:43: Get back in line.

53:45: Because there's structure And this is a household.

53:50: It's not a blood household.

53:52: It's a spiritual household.

53:54: And if we don't have structure, we'll have my family.

53:59: No structure, chaos, mental health issues.

54:03: Alienation, disaster.

54:06: If we have structure, we can have joy.

54:09: We can have disagreement one minute and laugh and eat together the next because the structure preserves everything.

54:19: Romans 12 Verse 2, be not conformed to this world.

54:29: The consumer Christian, the get, get, get, this isn't good for me, I want it my way.

54:33: This is conforming to the world.

54:36: But be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

54:44: If our mind is contentious.

54:47: We won't accept structure.

54:48: Nobody wants to be told what to do.

54:51: But if our mind is being conformed to Christ, We can prove, we can have evidence that structure is good, that structural integrity is good.

55:01: For I say through the grace given unto me.

55:05: This again, the gift from God, this grace, to every man that is among you.

55:10: Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, and I think this is what happens when you don't have structure.

55:15: His ego gets involved, and people think of themselves more highly than they ought to, and they want to extract respect from others, and it's all kinds of chaos.

55:24: But if there's structure, we can be humble and and not see ourselves as more than the other.

55:31: But to think soberly according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.

55:38: So he has handpicked us, he's put us together.

55:42: He has, by his grace, given us gifts according to the measure of faith.

55:49: So whatever gift I have, I need to be careful.

55:54: That I don't begin to think, oh, I'm so gifted.

55:58: I'm, I'm obviously I'm better.

56:00: You, you, you don't seem to be gifted like me.

56:03: So obviously you better respect me.

56:05: Even though I'm gifted, like the Corinthians were gifted, this is satanic behavior.

56:12: And that's why Paul, speaking to such a gifted church, said, don't, don't come together.

56:18: You're so gifted, you better stay apart.

56:22: But the gift should prove to us what is that structure is good.

56:28: That structure is acceptable.

56:31: That it's, it's perfect and it's the will of God.

56:33: And that it keeps us humble.

56:36: Oh, I fit here.

56:38: And if I didn't have legs, I would be nowhere.

56:43: OK, I get it now.

56:46: For as we have many members in one body, And all members have not the same office, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

57:01: I need you as much as you need me.

57:04: And God's vision of me, full, optimized, cannot be achieved without his vision of you optimized and complete.

57:15: So we're on this journey of becoming what God has in mind, but we cannot do it alone.
 57:21: I, I need you to edify me to become that, and you need me to edify you to become that.
 57:29: Having then gifts, differing.
 57:32: According to the grace that's given to us, we're not all the same.
 57:37: So having these different gifts, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.
 57:44: Don't get outside and start doing this by ego, do it by the proportion of faith or ministry, some have the gift of service.
 57:51: Where would we be if we didn't have the gift of service?
 57:53: Then let us wait on our ministering.
 57:56: Or he that teaches, teach.
 57:58: Or he that exhorts, exhort.
 58:00: He that gives, let him do it with simplicity.
 58:02: He that rules with diligence.
 58:06: That that can't possibly be.
 58:08: Am I seeing this?
 58:09: Is ruling a gift?
 58:13: Does ruling bring structure?
 58:15: And that's a gift And to do it with diligence.
 58:21: He that shows mercy with cheerfulness.
 58:24: But let love be without hypocrisy and abhor what's evil, be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love in honor, preferring one another.
 58:33: So as much as we're gifted, we see the need of the other brother, the other member, and we're always esteeming the other better.
 58:42: Let's go to Ephesians 4.
 58:44: Sister Olivia was reading.
 58:52: Ephesians 4.
 59:00: And I want to make the argument now.
 59:03: As we read Ephesians 4 and we've read 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, if we put Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 all together, The structure emerges.
 59:15: That We're not a bridge.
 59:18: We're a family.
 59:20: We're a household But it's not chaos.
 59:23: It's not anything goes.
 59:25: There is a structure.
 59:26: Every congregation needs to have this structure, and the argument I'm going to make is when we put Ephesians 4 with 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, the structure is both vertical and horizontal.
 59:39: Vertical and horizontal, and I'll explain what I mean as we read this passage.
 59:44: Ephesians 4 And we'll break into verse 3.
 59:50: Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.
 59:54: We need each other.
 59:55: We don't want disruption.
 59:57: We don't want chaos.
 59:59: We're going to keep the unity of the spirit so the spirit can flourish in the bond of peace.

1:00:03: This is a covenant.

1:00:04: We're bound.

1:00:06: It's it's a binding of peace.

1:00:09: There's one body and one spirit.

1:00:11: Even as you're called in one hope of your calling.

1:00:17: God didn't purchase us as is.

1:00:21: The price he paid for us is the 2B.

1:00:25: It it's the vision that he has for us, and there's one hope of that vision, one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all.

1:00:38: But unto every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

1:00:44: So, so think of it this way.

1:00:49: God has set us in the body as it pleases Him.

1:00:54: And then he has mysteriously put grace in a particular way in each one of us.

1:01:03: And it's almost like he's then saying, figure it out.

1:01:07: Because it's invisible You don't just walk in and it says, my gift is this, by God's grace, and so we just, we just have everybody understand.

1:01:17: It's like a jigsaw puzzle that we have to figure out, where do you fit.

1:01:21: Where do you fit?

1:01:23: And if we ignore this, then the grace of God is cut off.

1:01:31: Wherefore he says, when he ascended upon high, think of revelation when he goes before the throne of God, after being crucified and buried and resurrected, when he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive.

1:01:47: All of the human abuse, slave trading.

1:01:51: Rape, destruction, shattered families, all of that that Satan brought into the world, he took all of that with him.

1:01:59: When he became the perfect offering.

1:02:02: And then he, then he gave gifts unto men.

1:02:05: We've won.

1:02:07: Satan has lost, Christ has won, and in that process he's given gifts to men.

1:02:13: To fulfill his will.

1:02:20: Now he that ascended.

1:02:23: What is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

1:02:27: In other words, God cannot ascend to heaven.

1:02:30: Unless he first descends.

1:02:33: And he's on a mission.

1:02:34: He's a god of purpose.

1:02:36: And he came to Earth with a specific purpose in mind.

1:02:39: He achieved that, and he went back to heaven and then sent down gifts to continue the purpose.

1:02:51: And as he's giving gifts.

1:02:56: To men on Earth Notice verse 11 And the argument that I'm making here This is the vertical structure.

1:03:06: 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, that's the horizontal structure.

1:03:11: So, and both are gifts.

1:03:13: These are gifts from God.
 1:03:15: Vertical structure and horizontal structure.
 1:03:18: So we're gonna deal with vertical structure first.
 1:03:20: And he gave some, this is his gift.
 1:03:23: Upon being successful and leading captivity captive, now we're gonna vanquish
 captivity and overcome the devil, and the gift is apostles.
 1:03:34: And some profits And some evangelists.
 1:03:39: And this is how captivity is being vanquished.
 1:03:42: And some pastors and teachers.
 1:03:47: What is this vertical?
 1:03:50: Structure 400, it tells us.
 1:03:54: We don't have to guess.
 1:03:55: This vertical structure is for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry,
 for the edifying of the body of Christ.
 1:04:06: In other words, If you have a family.
 1:04:11: Like mine, that structure was shattered.
 1:04:14: There's no edification.
 1:04:16: There's competition.
 1:04:18: And rivalry.
 1:04:20: And dysfunction But if you are gifted, To have a structured family.
 1:04:27: Then there's edification and joy.
 1:04:30: So, God is giving authority to the church for the sake of edification.
 1:04:38: For how long?
 1:04:39: Until we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God
 unto a perfect man.
 1:04:46: Unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
 1:04:50: There's a vision that he has.
 1:04:52: Individually, for me, for you, for you, for you, for each of us.
 1:04:58: It's not as is.
 1:05:00: There's a vision he has for you.
 1:05:02: And there's structures in place for you to grow into that vision individually.
 1:05:07: Congregationally.
 1:05:09: And covenant community-wide.
 1:05:12: That when he appears, his, his shepherds, his saints are with him.
 1:05:16: In having achieved the vision that he had for us.
 1:05:21: And that's why this structure's here.
 1:05:24: That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every
 wind of doctrine by the slight of men and cunning craftiness.
 1:05:32: So that captivity is still here and it's trying to infiltrate, and a miscalculation will let it
 in.
 1:05:38: But it's not, it's not the intent.
 1:05:41: The intent is that we grow into this vision.
 1:05:45: By the slight men, by the slight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in
 wait to deceive.
 1:05:52: It's waiting for that moment, and in 15 seconds everything collapses.

1:05:57: It's like you, if you know there's problems in your congregation, but you look the other way.

1:06:04: Great.

1:06:04: Satan's like fantastic.

1:06:07: I could strike now, but it's not juicy enough yet.

1:06:11: Let them build themselves up a little bit more.

1:06:14: And when the moment is right, I'm going to take them out like you wouldn't believe.

1:06:18: And, and, and not only that congregation, it's going to affect other congregations as well.

1:06:24: Remember the ring.

1:06:30: Verse 15, but speaking the truth in love, speak up.

1:06:36: Hopefully you're in a congregation where you feel free to speak your mind.

1:06:39: Because if you're not There's a problem.

1:06:42: That's a miscalculation.

1:06:44: There's no way that you as an adult Christian with the Holy Spirit.

1:06:48: Feel that you can't speak your mind.

1:06:50: If that's the case, you're in the wrong, I shouldn't say you're in the wrong household, but you're in a dysfunctional household.

1:06:55: And it's your job to speak the truth in love.

1:06:59: Can I talk to you?

1:07:00: Few things I'm seeing here, I don't think it's healthy.

1:07:04: how can I help?

1:07:06: Because I'm not here to consume, I'm here to contribute.

1:07:11: So if we can speak the truth of love in love, we may grow up into him.

1:07:17: Not as is But to become So if we can speak the truth in love, let's sit down at the family table and let's have real conversations.

1:07:27: As contributors, not as consumers.

1:07:32: We may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

1:07:38: From whom the whole body fitly joined together again, it's by design.

1:07:41: He just put us here and we're figuring out how we are to be configured.

1:07:46: And compacted by that which every joint supplies.

1:07:50: When, when the grace given to you.

1:07:53: Combined with the grace given to me, we're able to supply.

1:07:58: According to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body onto the edifying of itself in love.

1:08:06: So this now is the horizontal.

1:08:09: Structure.

1:08:10: So if you go to the next slide to show what I mean by this vertical and horizontal structure.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 1.mp4

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AUTHORITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Two dimensions: vertical structure, horizontal gifts

THE VERTICAL

One divine structure

Only 3 levels – 2 ordained offices

Ephesians 4:11 to 16

DIVINELY APPOINTED OFFICES

CHRIST

Head of the body

ELDERS

DEACONS

THE HORIZONTAL

Many distinct gifts

The Spirit distributes gifts severally as he wills.

1 Corinthians 12:4 to 11

BRETHREN

Each member, each gift

Teaching Hospitality Service Mercy Exhortation

HORIZONTAL - SPIRIT-GIVEN GIFTS

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Paused 01:08:49 / 01:33:22

1:08:17: There is one structure.

1:08:19: And the vertical structure.

1:08:22: Only on Earth only has 3 levels.

1:08:26: You've got the brethren.

1:08:28: We've got the Diakinate.

1:08:30: And we've got the eldership.

1:08:33: Under Christ So anywhere we go where we hear.

1:08:38: You know, first lady and national coordinator and regional director and pastor rank this and evangelical, and there's like multiple levels, garbage, human.

1:08:54: Human structure The organic structure is Christ.

1:09:00: Pastors Deacons with authority over the brethren.

1:09:06: And that structure is there to protect the brethren.

1:09:10: And to enable the brethren to flourish.

1:09:13: But there's another Structure of authority.

1:09:19: And it's horizontal.

1:09:21: And that, and even the elders and the deacons now fold into.

1:09:26: The level of brethren, we're all brethren.

1:09:28: And so now at the level of brethren, we have what I call functional authority.

1:09:34: So there's structural authority, and then there's functional authority.

1:09:38: Functional authority is when needed.

1:09:42: When needed, and I'll just say, my wife's a musician.

1:09:47: And when I joined the Worldwide Church of God, and then we were in Philadelphia Church of God as well, I would often observe, so she's an accompanist, and then there would be somebody leading the choir.

1:09:58: Except that they weren't leading the fire.
 1:10:01: The minister was leading the choir.
 1:10:03: Because the person who was gifted to actually lead the choir was female.
 1:10:09: She had the gift of craftsmanship and music and praise.
 1:10:13: And Jennifer's there to accompany and work with the choir, and I'd be there watching, and the minister has no clue anything about music, but has to be an authority.
 1:10:23: This, this does not make sense.
 1:10:25: That horizontal authority is, we delegate authority to the person who's gifted in that area.
 1:10:33: And we allow them to run that, and both the vertical and the horizontal reinforce each other.
 1:10:40: The vertical protects brethren from devouring each other.
 1:10:44: The vertical ensures that brethren have the opportunity to work their gifts.
 1:10:51: The horizontal will never rebel against the vertical.
 1:10:57: Because the horizontal's authority comes from the Holy Spirit.
 1:11:01: And so it protects the vertical.
 1:11:04: Because it realized that's from God.
 1:11:07: And the household will collapse on itself if we don't have it.
 1:11:11: So the vertical protects the horizontal, and the horizontal protects the vertical.
 1:11:16: Very, very difficult for us.
 1:11:19: If we go to the next slide Very difficult for us.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 1.mp4

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Authority Must Function

Structure is only protective when its officers actually lead

REBUKE <i>2 Timothy 4:2 · Titus 2:15</i> Preach the word. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all authority. Let no man despise thee.	OBEY <i>Hebrews 13:17</i> Obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls and must give account.	HONOR <i>1 Timothy 5:17</i> Elders that rule well are worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
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Christianity has been emasculated. Eldership must function: masculine strength wrapped in pastoral care.

LINE UPON LINE

THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE

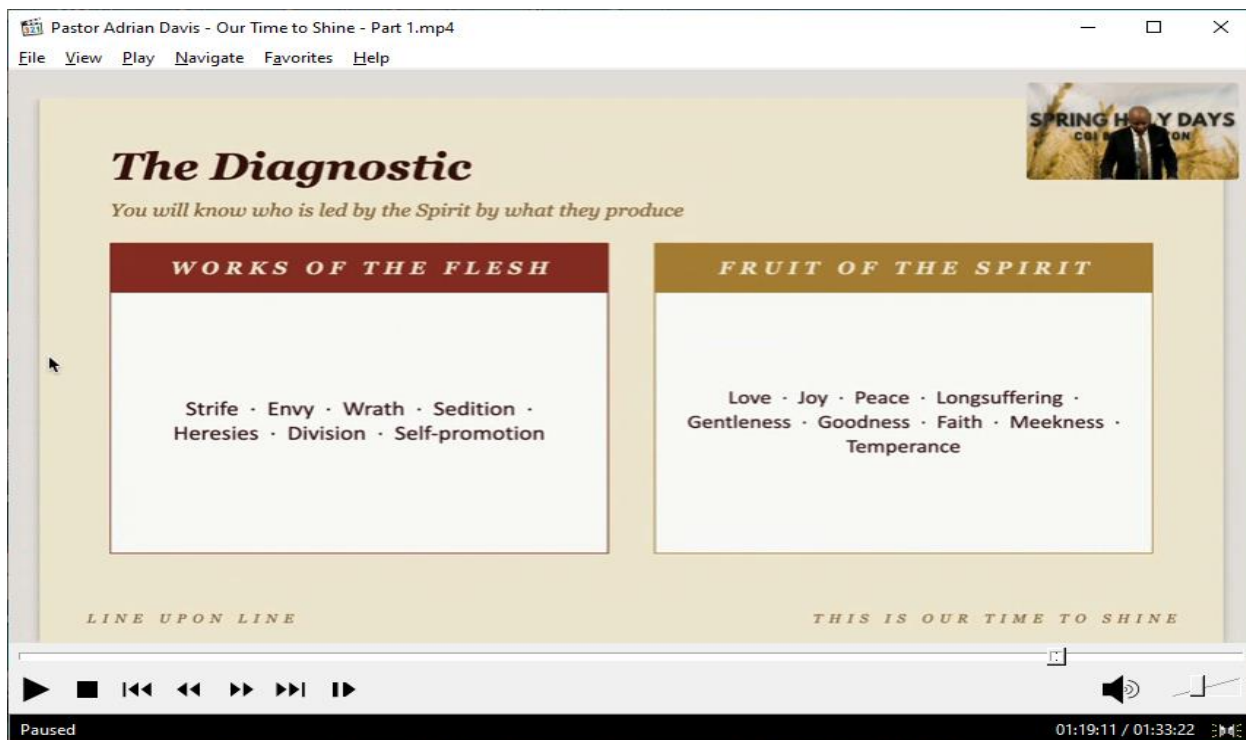
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1:11:26: Because we live in a new age.
 1:11:30: And the age that we live in.
 1:11:32: is an effeminate age.

1:11:36: We live in the age of of Ishtar.
 1:11:40: Everything has to be feminized.
 1:11:42: Masculinity is toxic.
 1:11:44: We don't want masculinity.
 1:11:46: And so men are not men anymore.
 1:11:49: And authority is frowned upon.
 1:11:52: And yet the scripture makes it clear that for the church to be healthy.
 1:11:59: The eldership with the diaconate has the authority to rebuke.
 1:12:06: Do we need to read it together?
 1:12:08: Or can we accept this?
 1:12:10: Let's, let's read it together because it's so foreign to us.
 1:12:13: It's such a strange thing.
 1:12:14: And when usually when we see.
 1:12:18: organizations that do give authority to their ministers, it's abusive.
 1:12:25: So they go, they get out of control.
 1:12:27: So how do we find this, this spiritual balance?
 1:12:31: Where Christ has the authority over the church, which he has delegated to the ministry, and the diaconate helps, and the brethren love it.
 1:12:41: Because if it has fruit, it has good fruit.
 1:12:44: 2 Timothy For And verse 2.
 1:12:52: Paul at the end of life, passing the baton to Timothy, encourages him to preach the word.
 1:12:58: The, the only way Christ's will can get into the church is through, through the word.
 1:13:04: Preach the word.
 1:13:06: Be instant, be ready, in season, out of season.
 1:13:10: reprove.
 1:13:12: Rebuke Exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.
 1:13:17: Well, if we're made up of consumer Christians, if this is a marketplace, And Timothy starts reproving and rebuking.
 1:13:26: I'm the customer here.
 1:13:27: I'm king.
 1:13:28: I'm out.
 1:13:28: I'm going to go find a place that's more to my liking.
 1:13:32: If this is a household.
 1:13:35: And Timothy's been given this authority.
 1:13:38: And something is out of line.
 1:13:40: There's a miscalculation, and he rebukes.
 1:13:43: Thank you.
 1:13:44: That's helpful Exhort with all long suffering and doctrine, don't give up.
 1:13:53: Ridding ourselves of human nature takes time.
 1:13:57: So if we're to rebuke.
 1:13:59: Then the brethren should obey.
 1:14:03: Hebrews 13.
 1:14:10: So very clearly there are lines of authority in a healthy church.
 1:14:14: If we want to be a dysfunctional church, Then that's a different matter.

1:14:24: Hebrews 13 Verse 17 Huh Obey them that have the rule over you.
 1:14:35: How about that?
 1:14:38: Where did that come from?
 1:14:39: How's, how does that work?
 1:14:41: Unless there is a vertical structure.
 1:14:45: There are lines of authority.
 1:14:48: And when the Spirit by God's grace is working, If that spirit, if that authority is coming from Christ, then Christ would never call Christ accursed.
 1:15:00: I would never receive that authority and say it's from the devil.
 1:15:05: If the Holy Spirit is in me.
 1:15:07: I would see that authority and welcome it and protect it.
 1:15:11: Because that's what keeps the family healthy.
 1:15:14: And flourishing, obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves.
 1:15:19: Now, if we're Holy Spirit minded, we know that this is not saying, and whatever they tell you to do, you better do it.
 1:15:27: Because I'm just handing you over to them.
 1:15:29: No.
 1:15:31: Because I have the Holy Spirit, because I'm gifted with the Holy Spirit, nobody, absolutely, there's no human being on the planet.
 1:15:39: That has the authority to tell me to go against my conscience.
 1:15:43: To tell me to go against the word of God.
 1:15:45: They just don't have that authority.
 1:15:47: The authority that elders have is to shepherd us within the will of God.
 1:15:52: And having the Holy Spirit, I can tell the difference.
 1:15:55: And happy to comply when everything is within God's will.
 1:15:59: And as pressure comes upon us, we have to trust each other.
 1:16:04: There are times we're going to have to pivot on a dime.
 1:16:07: The way the world is today, it's, it's going to be different.
 1:16:11: A big change is coming.
 1:16:13: And sometimes decisions have to be made fast.
 1:16:16: And if there's no trust, we can't do that.
 1:16:19: So we spin around in circles and we're in trouble.
 1:16:25: Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves.
 1:16:27: Why?
 1:16:28: For they watch for your souls.
 1:16:31: As they that must give account.
 1:16:35: This is a heavy, heavy burden.
 1:16:37: But let them do it with joy.
 1:16:40: A happy household, everyone is happy.
 1:16:44: Joy spreads.
 1:16:47: Not with grief.
 1:16:49: It's like I give up.
 1:16:53: Do it your way, OK, whatever.
 1:16:55: I'll just show up.
 1:16:55: Let's, let's all just go to the consumer model, and then we're all destroyed.

1:17:00: As opposed to joy, let's do this.
 1:17:03: Let's grow together.
 1:17:05: And not with grief, because that's unprofitable for you.
 1:17:09: In other words, this is a disaster.
 1:17:11: 15 seconds, everything is done.
 1:17:13: It's unprofitable.
 1:17:14: It's a kind way of saying you're destroying yourselves.
 1:17:21: 1 Timothy 5.
 1:17:36: 1 Timothy 5.
 1:17:44: And verse 17 Again, ver versus the Bible showing vertical structure.
 1:17:50: Let the elders that rule well.
 1:17:53: Be counted worthy of double honor.
 1:17:56: So elders can rule.
 1:17:59: But maybe they're not really gifted in that area, and so they're not ruling well.
 1:18:04: And then you might have an elder that actually is gifted in this area and passionate and ruling well.
 1:18:10: Well, if you find that, that elder should be counted worthy of double honor.
 1:18:15: Especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
 1:18:20: Because that's the only way God's mind can get into the body.
 1:18:25: is through the word But brother, you know You don't just say, oh, let me just spin up a sermon.
 1:18:32: It takes work and not everybody's willing to do the work.
 1:18:40: Especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.
 1:18:43: Let's show of just the last slide.
 1:18:49: And so, We need to be able to just run a a a a a discernment, a diagnostic.
 1:18:57: As we look at our culture.
 1:19:02: I'm just waiting for the next slide.



1:19:04: It's coming eventually.
1:19:07: It's frozen.
1:19:08: OK.
1:19:09: That's fine.
1:19:11: So we have to, we have to discern.
1:19:13: The gifts within each other.
1:19:17: And then based on the gifts we see.
1:19:20: What role should we be playing?
1:19:22: And that's what I want to talk about next week is the work.
1:19:26: Of the congregation.
1:19:28: So I want to appeal to all of the congregations out there that are listening to us.
1:19:34: I want to disabuse you of the notion.
1:19:38: That the purpose of a congregation is to come together and sit for 2 hours and consume.
1:19:44: To listen to a lovely song and then go home.
1:19:48: That actually we are working units.
1:19:51: And the purpose of a congregation is to grow in strength and grace and knowledge to do greater work.
1:20:00: This is a working unit and we have other working units out there, and we need structural integrity to be infused with the Holy Spirit & not overtaken with the works of the flesh
1:20:12: So that we can grow together in love and do the work, which so much is gonna be required of us.
1:20:20: The world is changing rapidly.
1:20:21: I know it doesn't seem like it, but it is.
1:20:25: It's like you have a current and then you have an undercurrent, and the undercurrent is running really fast, but it doesn't look like it on the surface.
1:20:34: So you jump in the water and the undercurrent grabs you and you're gone.
1:20:38: Well, it's like that.
1:20:38: There's a current and everything kind of seems the same in the West, but there's this undercurrent that's moving rapidly.
1:20:46: And we need to be prepared for that, so.
1:20:50: What I wanted to talk about today.
1:20:52: In preparation for Pentecost is the need for structural integrity in our relationships.
1:21:01: And that structural integrity is both vertical and horizontal.
1:21:06: Gifts must be recognized.
1:21:08: And gifted brethren authority must be delegated to them.
1:21:13: And if they are healthy and mature, when authority is delegated, the body will be edified.
1:21:21: If we delegate authority and we start seeing works of the flesh, then like Corinth, ego is getting involved and we need to pull that authority back.
1:21:29: But we need the vertical in the vertical authority to oversee the horizontal authority.
1:21:35: So thank you brethren.
1:21:36: Hopefully this is digestible, because I want to build on it next week when we talk about the power of the Holy Spirit to do the work of God in a changing world.