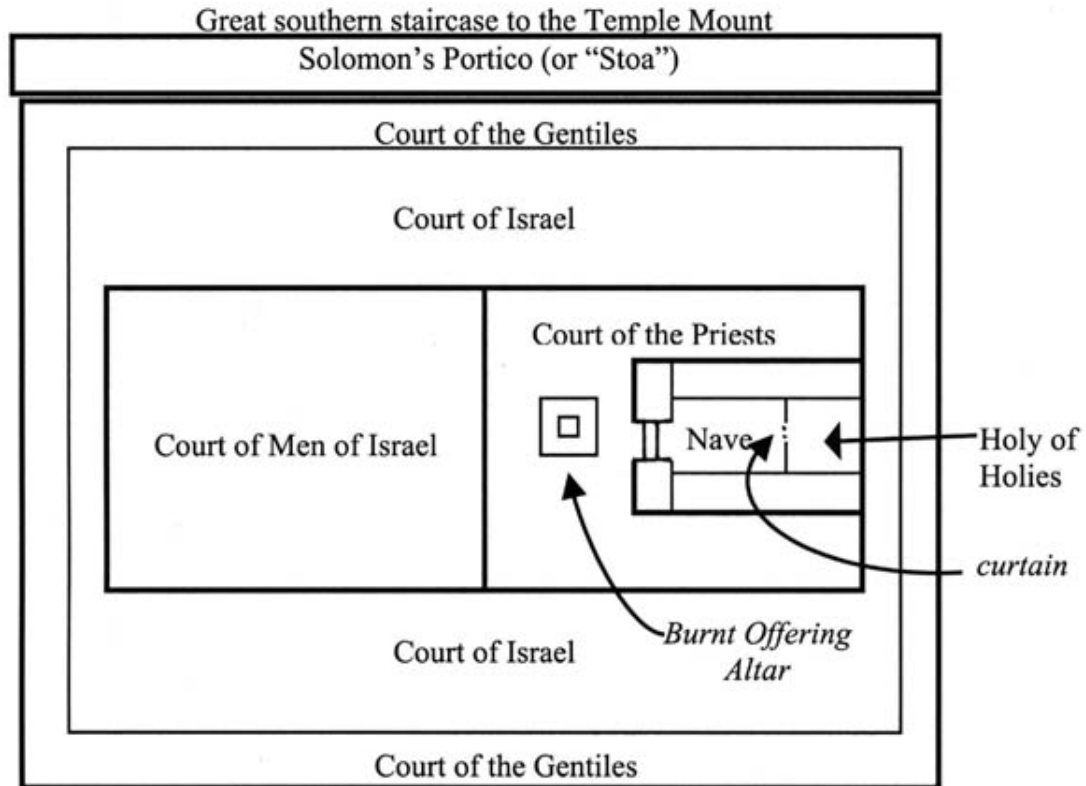


Church as Family Part 2 July 7, 2024



1. Through Jesus We Become God's Family

Ephesians 2:18-22, *"Through Jesus we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household (God's family), 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."*

Joseph Hellerman writes, *“The early Christians had a markedly different perspective. Jesus' early followers were convinced that the group comes first—that I as an individual will become all God wants me to be only when I begin to view my goals, desires, and relational needs as secondary to what God is doing through his people, the local church. The group, not the individual, took priority in a believer's life in the early church. And this perspective was hardly unique to Christianity. Strong group values defined the broader social landscape of the ancient world and characterized the lives of Jews, Christians, and pagans alike.”*

Ephesians 4:17-32, *“Walk no longer as the Gentiles, in the futility of their mind, darkened, excluded from the life of God because of ignorance in them, because of the hardness of their heart. You did not learn Christ in this way, lay aside the old self, be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Stop lying and speak truth to each other for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. Stop stealing and go to work. Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, only speak what is good for edification, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

2. Through Jesus We Speak to Family with Grace Filled Words of Truth