

# Big and Small 1

## Introduction

- Like a human body is made up of both large visible parts and small essential systems, the church needs both "big" and "small" expressions
- Key verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27 - "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually"

## 1. We cannot obey the "One Another" commands except in small groups

- There are over 100 New Testament verses command "one another" ministry
- Examples:
  - Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9-10)
  - Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25)
  - Confess to and pray for one another (James 5:16)
  - Comfort and edify one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
  - Teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)

## 2. The New Testament Pattern - House Meetings

- Key examples:
  - Upper room gathering (Acts 1:13)
  - Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1)
  - Daily temple and house-to-house meetings (Acts 2:46)
  - Teaching in homes (Acts 5:42)
  - Prayer meetings in homes (Acts 12:12)
  - Philippian Jailer's house (Act 16:32)
  - Lydia's house (Act 16:40)
  - Philemon's house (Philemon 1:2)
  - Justus and Gaius (Acts 18:7, Rom 16:23)
  - Priscilla and Aquila's house (Romans 16:3-5 & 1 Cor 16:19)
  - Nymphas's house (Colossians 4:15)

## 3. Jesus's Model - Small Group Ministry

- Spending the day with disciples (John 1:38-39)
- Visiting Zacchaeus's house (Luke 19:5)
- Post-resurrection fellowship over food (Luke 24:41)
- His evangelism instruction emphasised house-to-house ministry (Luke 10:5-7)

## Conclusion, Application

### Small Groups...

1. Enable every member to minister their gifts (1 Corinthians 14:26)
2. Facilitate deeper relationships and discipleship
3. Are essential for healthy Christianity

## Discussion Questions:

1. What's your initial reaction to the idea that some Biblical commands can only be properly fulfilled in small group settings?
2. Jesus often ministered in homes & over meals. How can we practically share meals together more?
3. Many people feel nervous about hosting or joining a small group. What fears or barriers might hold someone back, and how could we help overcome them?