

he oneness of the Body/coming into the unity of the faith is perhaps the most powerful testimony of Christ that the Ekklesia ("Church") can present to the world. Jesus said, "When they are one, then the world will believe" (John 17:21).

Demonstrating our oneness in Christ is A MUST—for it fulfils the Great Commission.

HOW SHALL WE DO THIS AMIDST SO MUCH DIVERSITY IN DOCTRINE AND PRACTICES?

Let's face the fact: the church system is NOT an effective platform for demonstrating this organic oneness. Reason? All churches have their own unique doctrines and practices which inadvertently excludes others.

For instance, no way a "holiness" church will allow a "trouser-wearing", "non-head covering" sister to be a member of the church without attempting to make her conform. And vice versa, of course.

No way a conservative non-Pentecostal church will allow a tongue-speaking believer to join the church without attempting to make such a believer pocket his "penterascality" (so they call it).

A *Cele* member may feel out of place going to worship in certain churches with her regalia and no shoes. Of course, the discomfort will be mutual.

All these examples are to state that churches are not the best places to demonstrate the oneness of the Body of Christ without compromising her diversity. Churches are by nature "homogeneous".

If this be the case, how then can our oneness be demonstrated? Gathering as the Lord's body in our locality (our residential neighborhoods) where brethren can simply trek a few minutes—in the home of a *Gaius*, or a *Priscilla* or a *Chloe*—and, very naturally, hands joined together, they lift up Jesus and bless one another. That is the Ekklesia: believers from various background/doctrinal leanings / churches gathering locally as a testimony of our oneness in Christ.

Let the Ekklesia Arise!

For more information and to connect with an Ekklesia gathering in your city, please call/whatsapp any of the following numbers: 08038548073, 08034284071, 08034709848. Shalom!