

Storehouse Communities – Overview

Storehouse Communities is an emerging term being used to describe small local or regional areas where Christians have sensed the Lord nudging them to seek out community-based, Christ-centered solutions in all facets of life (more fully elaborated in a separate document) at the community level. These are not survival groups. However, they have varying beliefs that world events are signaling things written in the scriptures (Matt 24, etc.) that proceed the return of Christ, having a sense of urgency about the hour, without attaching a specific timeline. These communities want to be a blessing to themselves and others in the days ahead.

These areas seem to be characterized by individuals that know Christ and know each other, finding a common interest to bless their communities outwardly as an extension of God's love "seeking the peace of the city". This is also key to understanding an outward posture of helping people as part of spreading the good news, instead of an inward focus of self-preservation. Desiring to become an "Ark" of refuge and blessing. Being a "Goshen" (place of peace and rest) in a time where the world is on fire. Such communities also being stirred by a sense of repentance – returning to God and His ways of life. Moving toward becoming a Body of Christ "without spot or wrinkle" preparing the way for Christ's return. Responding to such repentance movements such as 10 Days of Prayer. Desiring that their whole city would be a place of His Presence and Joy, resting from daily affairs of the city to honor God at appointed times.

They sense that biblical repentance not purely a spiritual act, but is connected to responding to the whole scripture, which includes returning to the Lord in the practical realms of economic and governance practices. "After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, 'Each of you is exacting usury from his brother.'" Nehemiah 5:7. This is in contrast to the global trends of increasing dependency on godless systems that slowly (but intentionally) have embedded sin within their constructs, enslaving people to such sin and debt to said systems (greed, fear, envy, various sexual sins, covetousness, idolatry, usury, etc.). Systems of this world (read: Babylonian) which embody works of the flesh expressly opposite to the fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5). These systems include central banking, fiat currencies, global financial markets, certain regulatory regimes, taxation, etc. Some of which are purely voluntary, and therefore can be given up or replaced. Others of which are required by law and regulation. Such governmental, legal and judicial systems require the consent of the people and in democracies can be turned back, as was done in the abolition of slavery and reinstatement of inalienable civil rights.

Such Christians see a continuum between where we are today and the continued decay of where the world is headed prior to the Lord's return. Specifically, the trajectory we are inextricably headed toward culminating as described in Revelation 13 and Revelation 17/18 as a global anti-Christ kingdom and its various aspects of idolatry, false allegiance, and control. Note the economic and monetary aspect of all of this. Jesus said, "when I return, will I find faith on the earth?" Could he have been speaking of this aspect?

These groups are committed to praying for those in authority, and respecting such legitimate authority, but are no longer prepared to go along to get along. Reevaluating in the 21st century what it means to be "in the world, not of the world" (echoing aspect of how the 1st century Church assessed same based on Christ's directive). Consecration to the Lord does not always mean rebellion to those in authority. As such, Storehouse communities seek the peace of the city, but refuse to compromise their faith and beliefs. And are willing to expend the effort to create parallel systems and economic practices that are Christ-centered in order to accomplish this consecration and love for people. As the whole city responds to the Lord, those in authority may choose to dedicate their city to the King of Kings with the will of the people, previewing "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done". In other more hostile environments, the Church may find need to go "underground" in terms of its community practices and consecration, as we have seen in China.

It is intended for any and all such Storehouse communities to network among one another across states or nations, connecting across geographies as the Lord leads. Where one city can support another and visa-versa. *"Your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality"* 2 Cor 8:14.