

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized, dark green leaves and branches. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with simple outlines. The branches are thin and curved, creating a natural, vine-like structure. The overall color palette is a range of green tones, from a deep forest green to a slightly lighter, muted green.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 4:1 – 3



PHILIPPIANS: CONTENDING

**We're
gonna
jump
right in.**



Every Christian must decide:

Are you going to **build** the
Church or **abandon** her?



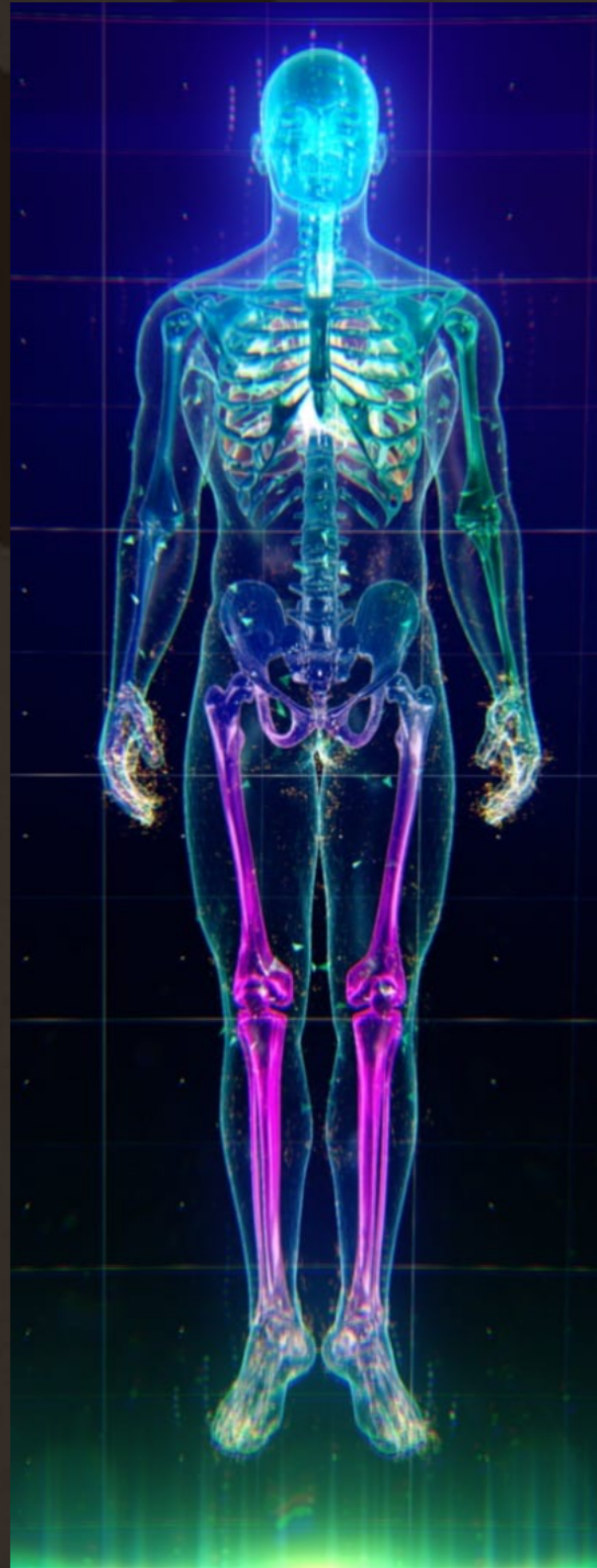
The
Local Church



But...
Shouldn't
we abandon
the church?



What does Jesus think?



Eph. 2-4
1 Cor. 12



Eph. 5
Rev. 21-22



1 Peter 2:5



Romans 8:23,
9:4; Eph 1:5,
etc.



Phil. 1:27 – 8
Eph. 6

What gives the greatest comfort
to a spiritual father and warning
to our opposition?

Standing firm in one spirit
Contending as one man
For the faith of the Gospel
Unafraid

What happens when oneness crashes?





**Contending as one
isn't primarily a
belief (Ideology)**

**Oneness is an
achievement**





4 basics of achieving oneness

And 147 ways we do it at HPC...or 4ish.





1.

**Contending for
unity is fueled by
emotional vision.**

2.

**The Gospel is the
basis for oneness.**

Diversity is destructive without spiritual
and humane unifying principle

Theology of oneness

Believers – oneness, unity, concord

Outsiders – peacemaking, justice, goodness

(Jesus didn't tell us to achieve world peace.)

Hebrews 12:14 – 15; Romans 12:18;

Proverbs 16:7; Leviticus 19:18

3.

CFO requires skillful discipline

Grace and truth.
Kind candor.
Careful cutting to heal.



Kind Candor



Honor
&
Embarrassment



4.

**CFO involves
everyone**

1 Corinthians 6:1 – 5 Resolution priority,
...in Corinth subsidiarity & environment

Resolution...

Priority: Matthew 5:24

Subsidiarity: Exodus 18

Environment: Philippians 4:1 – 3



Some more passages about this:

Matthew 18:15 – 17, 5:9

Philippians 2

Colossians 3:13

Proverbs 17:14

James 4:1 – 6, 17:3

Ephesians 4:15 – 16

Matthew 5:24

1 Corinthians 6:1 – 8

James 1:19 – 20, 5:16



1 John 4:7 – 8

Hebrews 12:14 – 15



Who is HPC?

How do we pursue oneness, like
mindedness, concord?






Is this boring?

Unity on this scale requires a shared
knowledge of structure.



(Institutions are how humans accomplish
things. We address bad institutions with
good ones.)





A Summary

We'll be working this out more over the
next 7 weeks preaching through
Philippians 4, with 2 dedicated sermons
at the end.



The background of the slide features a dark, monochromatic image of interlocking gears. The gears are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and mechanical complexity, with some gears in the foreground and others receding into the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the teeth of the gears and creating strong shadows.

1.

Active approach to conflict

Oneness is an achievement.

Resolving conflict produces less conflict.

Resolving conflict initiates growth.



2.

Leaders must be resolvers

Elders and leaders have to have the
courage and skill to resolve conflict.

3.

**We tear down dividing
walls of hostility**

Predictable human conflict is not
inevitable in the church.

The church is a sign to the world.

Key "inters" – dividing walls

- Generations (this one is bigger)
- Gender
- Race, ethnicity, nationality, language
- Temperment, experience
- Culture, traditions, history



4.

In the regional church

Among churches and church leaders.

This bears fruit.



5.

In dignity and justice

Long term concord can cost
short term division.

PHILIPPIANS:



CONTENDING