



Ekklesia: An Alternative Community

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Main Idea: *To thrive in exile is to take up the identity as an alternative community known as God's Ekklesia*

1. Discuss this quote: *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you odd."*
- Flannery O'Connor

What is it about our current cultural moment that causes us, as those who proclaim and live the truth, to be odd?

2. The Greek word for church is Ekklesia, which literally means called out ones. Kevin brought out three postures that we must avoid. Which of these three are you most inclined to take? Explain.
 - A. Isolation—Hiding or escaping culture
 - B. Assimilation—Blending into culture
 - C. Accommodation—Aligning with secular ideologies that don't align with the way of Jesus.

3. Read Jeremiah 29:1-6. In verses 4-6, What can we learn about living on the Peninsula from the Jews who were living in Babylon?

4. Read verse 7. The Hebrew word for “peace and prosperity” is shalom. What does it look like for you to seek the shalom of the community in which you live?

5. What are specific ways you can contribute to the common good? How could you specifically pray for your city?

6. Discuss this quote together. What does it look like to take responsibility for the city in which we live?

“Jeremiah’s timely advice in his letter admonishes the exiles not to pout, not to yearn for a lost golden age, and not to rage against their enemies. Instead he urges them to take responsibility for the city in which they live. In his words, “seek the welfare (shalom or peace) of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare (shalom) you will find your welfare (shalom).” Duane Friesen

7. Kevin said that the right posture while living in exile is to “go about your days attentive to the ways of Jesus.” Share the manner that you go about your days attentive to the ways of Jesus. Share ways you might improve your attentiveness to the ways of Jesus.

Pray for one another.