

Manifestation of life—the church: a service center

God is building a dwelling place. He used the apostles ... for the foundation. Now He's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. (Ephesians 2:20-22)

With the arrival of Jesus, Father started to build a new home called *church*. Jesus is the **Cornerstone**—“The cornerstone of an ancient building served as **an alignment stone** for all subsequent construction” (Dr. Dan Hayden, *A Plumb Line For Truth*). The alignment of the twelve apostles to Jesus formed the **foundation**. All persons, subsequently connected to Jesus, are “**living stones** that God is building into his spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:4-5).

Jesus demonstrated **the contour** of the foundation a few hours before His death: “He got up from the supper table, set aside His robe, and put on an apron. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with His apron. Then He said, ‘You address Me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master,’ and rightly so. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. **I’ve laid down a PATTERN for you**. What I’ve done, you do.” “The **MODEL** for the disciples in their following of Jesus **is that of the man who serves at table**: ‘But I am among you as one who serves’ (Luke 22:27)” (Hans Kung, *The Church*).

Jesus, therefore, intended the church to be a service center of sorts. Here are some of its services:

*I was hungry and you fed Me,
I was thirsty and you gave Me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave Me a room,
I was shivering and you gave Me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,*

I was in prison and you came to Me.'
Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or
ignored,
that was Me—you did it to Me. (Matthew 25:35-36)

Today I filled out a customer survey (hopefully I'll win the \$2500 sweepstakes!). The purpose of the survey was obvious: to determine the level of customer satisfaction with services rendered. From history we know the church scored high in services rendered. As defined above it conquered the Roman Empire in two centuries ***without investing in any bricks and mortar***. Tertullian, a third century author, observed: "*The Christians' deeds of love were so noble that the pagan world confessed in astonishment, 'See how they love one another.'*"