

HALIFAX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Come Up. Come Out. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Bride, the Call, and the Coming King

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven. . . and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.” (Revelation 4:1)

God is preparing His Bride. He calls her out of Babylon, gathers her to Christ alone, and lifts her up to her Bridegroom.

I. The Babylon We Leave

What is Babylon? An apostate system that masquerades as the Bride. The Church is not a business, and no man owns or heads it.

Old Testament roots. Babylon begins at Babel: men building a city and tower “to make us a name” without God (Gen 11:4–9). It grows into the empire that crushed Jerusalem and exiled God’s people (2 Kgs 25:8–11; Ps 137:1–4). Its king boasted, “I will ascend. . . I will be like the most High” (Isa 14:13–14). It is the golden cup that made the nations drunk (Jer 51:7), and the call already rang out: “Flee out of the midst of Babylon” (Jer 51:6, 45).

New Testament fulfillment. Babylon returns as a spiritual reality: a false church masquerading as the Bride. “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS” (Rev 17:5), “drunken with the blood of the saints” (Rev 17:6); “Babylon the great is fallen. . . become the habitation of devils” (Rev 18:2). She wears religion but denies its power.

Marks of Babylon today:

- **2 Timothy 3:5** “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”
- **Matthew 7:15** false prophets in sheep’s clothing.
- **2 Corinthians 11:13–15** false apostles; Satan as “an angel of light.”

Christ alone is Head of His Church (Eph 1:22; Col 1:18). Discern. Refuse counterfeits.

II. The Bride He Prepares

Pure. Spotless. Espoused to one Husband. Gathered by Christ Himself.

- **Ephesians 5:25–27** “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle. . . holy and without blemish.”
- **2 Corinthians 11:2** “espoused you to one husband. . . a chaste virgin to Christ.”
- **Revelation 19:7–8** “his wife hath made herself ready. . . arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”
- **Revelation 21:9** “Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:18** “God hath set the members. . . in the body, as it hath pleased him.”

III. The Call: Come Up. Come Out.

One voice from heaven, two commands for this hour.

- **Revelation 4:1** “Come up hither.”
- **Revelation 18:4** “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”
- **2 Corinthians 6:17–18** “Come out from among them, and be ye separate. . . I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.”
- **Hebrews 13:13** “Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.”
- **Isaiah 52:11** “Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing.”

Why Halifax Christian Fellowship: a people coming out, coming up, gathered to Christ alone.

IV. What Coming Out, Coming Up Looks Like

Doctrine becomes life. The Bride is known by what she puts off and what she puts on.

Coming OUT:

- **Out of the apostate church-business system** (Rev 18:4; Heb 13:13; 2 Tim 3:5). Refuse congregations built as businesses, man-headed, or holding form without power.
- **Out of unequal yokes** (2 Cor 6:14–16; 1 Cor 5:9–13). No covenant, marriage, partnership, or friendship that binds the soul to unbelief.
- **Out of the world’s spirit** (Rom 12:2; 1 John 2:15–17; Jas 4:4). Reject its metrics of success, its entertainments, its pride of life.
- **Out of the old man** (Rom 6:6, 12–14; Eph 4:22–24; 1 Pet 1:15–16). Sin put to death; the flesh crucified; personal holiness pursued.
- **Out of dead tradition** (Mark 7:7–9; Col 2:8; Gal 1:14). Examine every practice by the Word, not by what was always done.

Coming UP:

- **Up to Christ as Head and Treasure** (Col 3:1–3; Heb 12:1–2; Phil 3:14). Affections fixed above. Christ is not part of life; He is life.
- **Up in holiness of body and spirit** (2 Cor 7:1; Heb 12:14; 1 Pet 1:15–16). Perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- **Up in worship in Spirit and truth** (John 4:23–24; Eph 5:18–19; 1 Cor 14:15). Not performance, encounter.
- **Up in body life under Christ’s headship** (Acts 2:42–47; Eph 4:11–16; 1 Cor 12:18). Every member functioning, devoted to apostles’ doctrine, breaking of bread, prayers. No clergy/laity divide.
- **Up in mission and witness** (Matt 28:19–20; Acts 1:8; 1

Pet 2:9). Halifax must hear the gospel from this fellowship; the Bride speaks.

- **Up in expectancy of the Bridegroom** (Matt 25:1–13; Tit 2:13; 1 John 3:2–3; 2 Pet 3:11–14). Oil in the lamp, garments white, watching daily.

In sum: *Come out without come up: bitter separation. Come up without come out: compromise. Together: the Bride.*

V. Come, Lord Jesus

The Bride's cry as the King draws near.

- **Revelation 22:17, 20** “The Spirit and the bride say, Come... Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”
- **Matthew 25:6, 10** “At midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh... they that were ready went in with him to the marriage.”
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** “the dead in Christ shall rise first... caught up together... to meet the Lord in the air.”
- **1 John 3:2–3** “every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

Live ready: trim the lamp, keep the garments white, watch and pray.

VI. Building This Together: Our Commitments

“They continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

1. **Stay together.** Build friendships and a community of righteousness for the years to come. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... but exhorting one another” (Heb 10:24–25). The Bride is not a crowd of

strangers; she is one body across many years. *See also: Acts 4:32; Ps 133:1; Eph 4:1–3; Rom 12:10; Phil 1:27; 1 Pet 3:8.*

2. **Center your life around the gathered church.** Be faithful to gather always for worship, and especially on the Lord’s Day. “Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7). Sunday gathering is not a habit; it is the rhythm of the resurrection people. *See also: 1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10; Heb 10:25; Lk 4:16; Ps 84:10.*
3. **Commit to the Body of Christ.** Make this our primary corporate objective. Each member takes responsibility for ensuring the meeting happens and the Church is alive in Christ. “The members should have the same care one for another” (1 Cor 12:25). No spectators; every member functions. *See also: 1 Cor 12:12–27; Rom 12:4–8; Eph 4:11–16; 1 Cor 14:26; Gal 6:2; 1 Thess 5:11; Matt 6:33.*
4. **Keep the true and living Word of God always present.** “The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim 3:15). The Word is the lampstand of the assembly; without it we drift, with it we burn. *See also: 2 Tim 3:16–17; 2 Tim 4:1–4; Acts 2:42; Acts 17:11; Heb 4:12; Col 3:16; Ps 119:105; Isa 40:8.*

Closing Charge

Halifax Christian Fellowship is not built by men; it is gathered by Christ. Step out of every Babylon. Lift your eyes to the open door. And join the cry of the Bride: *Come, Lord Jesus.*

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come... Surely I come quickly. Amen.” (Revelation 22:17, 20)