



## We > Me - Week Four

Letters To The Church  
Revelation 2-3, select  
Together we build each other up

### ***In this series—answering the question: “Does Church Still Matter?”***

*What letters do we remember the most?*

*We want to say—the good ones, right? Wrong.*

*We always remember the rough ones more easily.*

### ***Church-y People & Veiled Criticism***

*“People are saying that...”*

*Dealing With Anonymous*

*“If you don’t \_\_\_\_\_, then I will \_\_\_\_\_”*

### ***The Right “Letters” You Get—Right When You Need Them***

*Encouraging, Honest, Understanding...*

*When the purpose is to build up, it feels different.*

*This is what it means to be together—you want the best for one another.*

## ***TOGETHER WE BUILD EACH OTHER UP***

### ***Revelation 2-3 (select verses)***

- The background to these letters—a context filled with conflict.*
- This is a composition designed to demonstrate the need for endurance.*
- John the Revelator wants to encourage, comfort, exhort and offer hope.*
- “I know...” used over and over again—shows understanding, intimacy.*
- Key ideas: Perseverance, Afflictions, Faithfulness, Assimilation...*

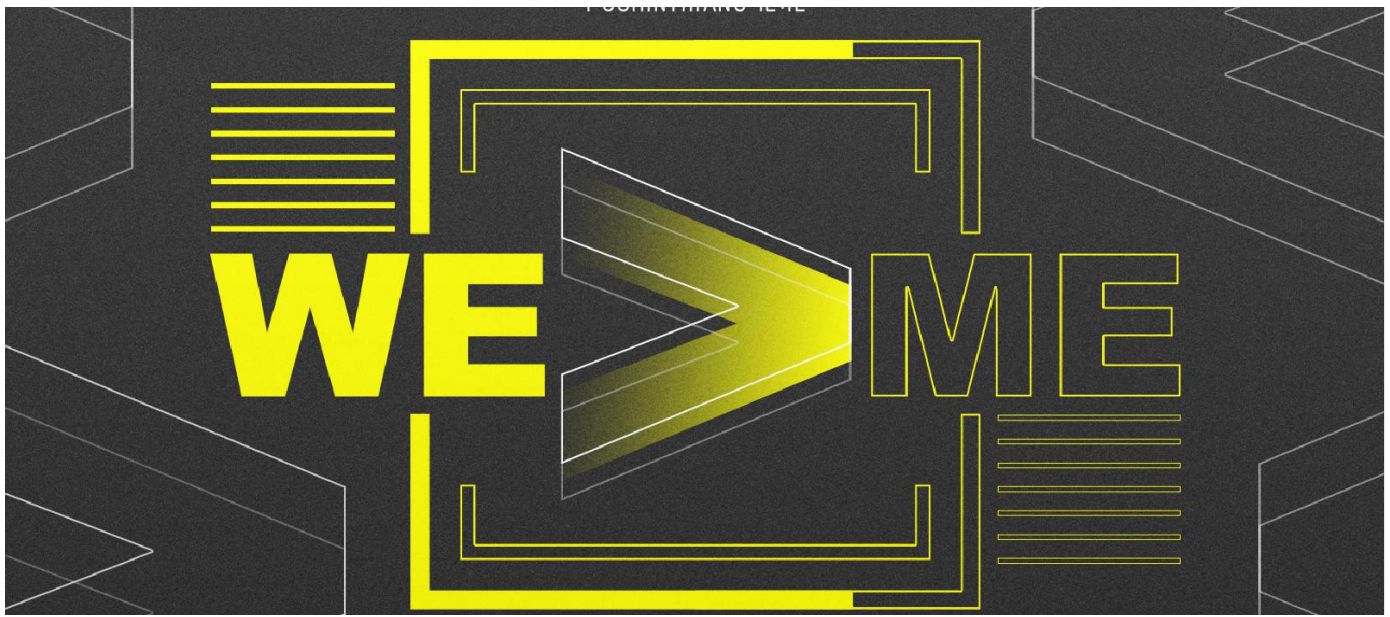
***John modeled speaking the truth in love to a community that needed to learn how to offer mutual encouragement, support and accountability.***

### ***How Do We Become This Kind of Community?***

- When We > Me - We really do speak the truth in love.*
- When We > Me - We assume the best of one another.*
- When We > Me - We call each other to faithfulness with mercy.*

*A story about two moments—and two different kinds of conversations...*

## ***TOGETHER WE BUILD EACH OTHER UP***



## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### **FOR FURTHER READING:**

***Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love To Attend***  
*Andy Stanley*

***Why Nobody Wants To Go To Church Anymore***  
*Thom and Joanie Schultz*

***Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food Politics and Romance  
Became Our New Religion and What To Do About It***  
*David Zahl*

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