



## *Unity in plurality*

*Dr. J.H. (Jan) van Doleweerd*

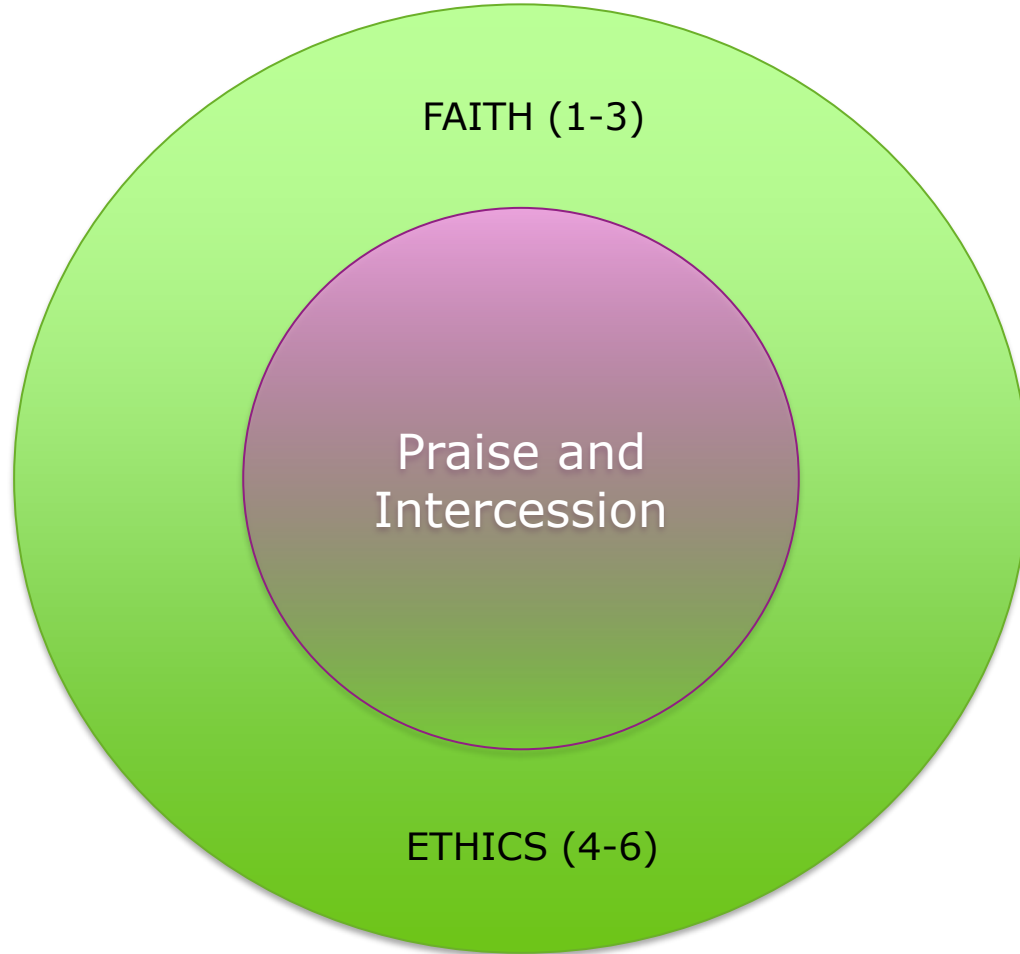


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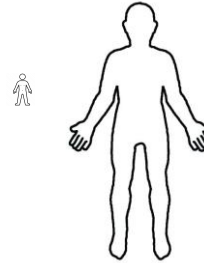


## ***Ephesians 3: 14-21***

*14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.***



# A. The Metaphors

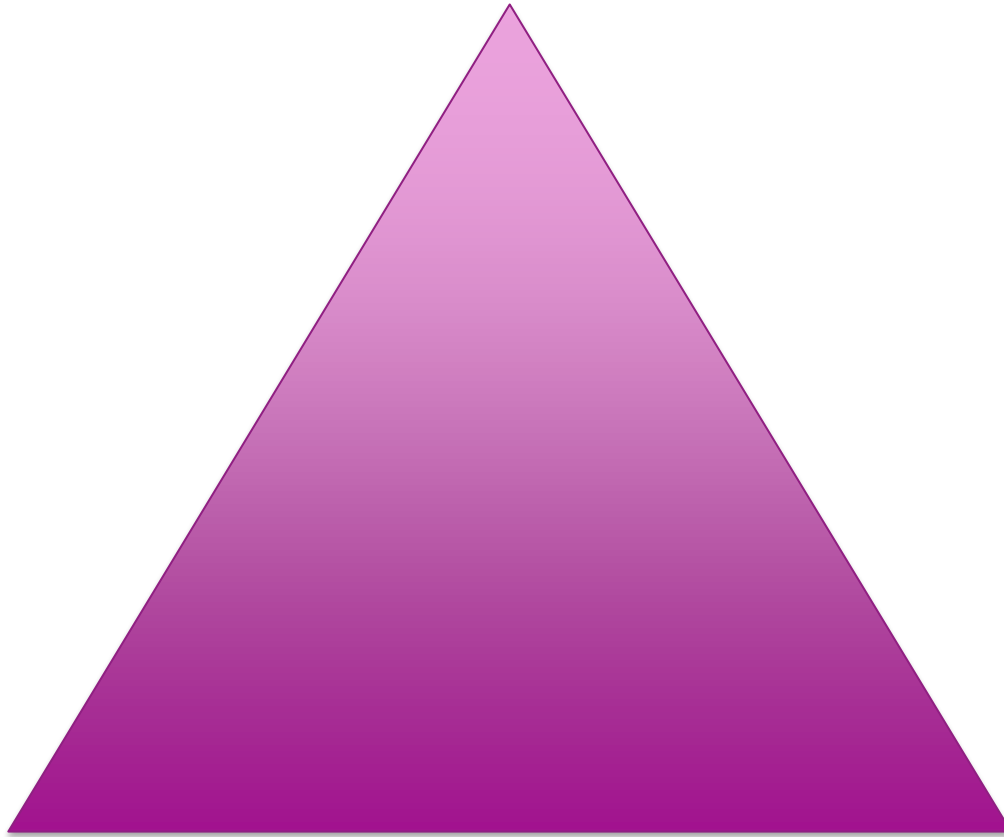


FULLNESS/FULFILMENT  
MYSTERY

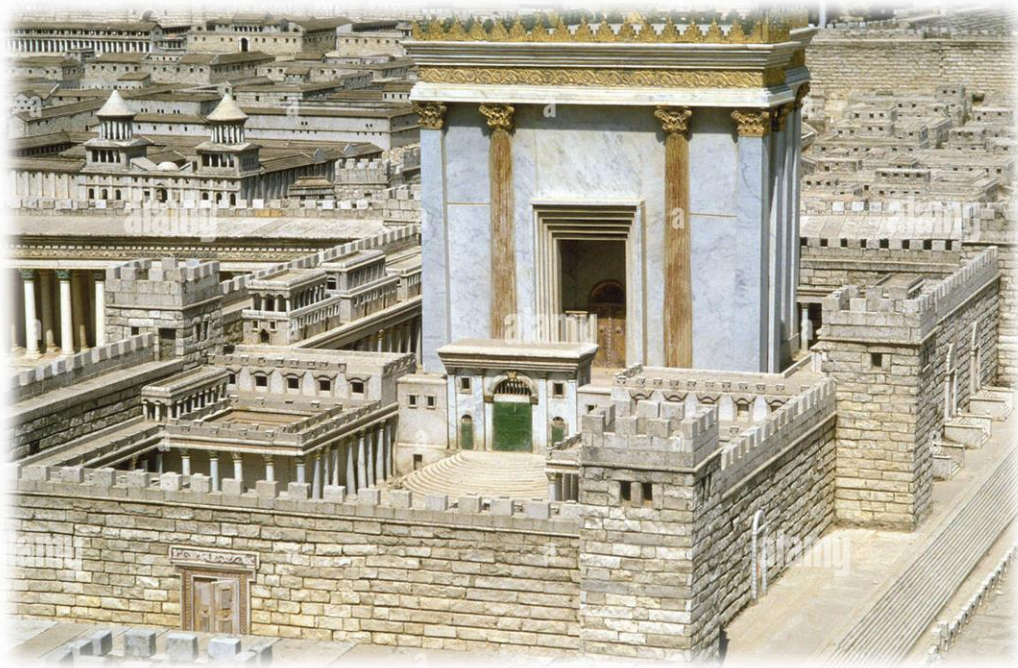
## ***B. The Prayer***



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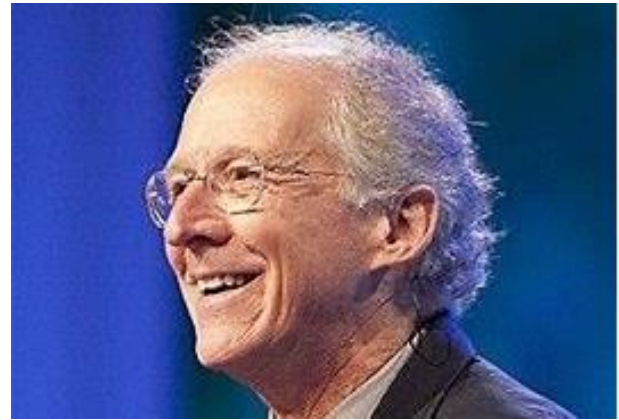
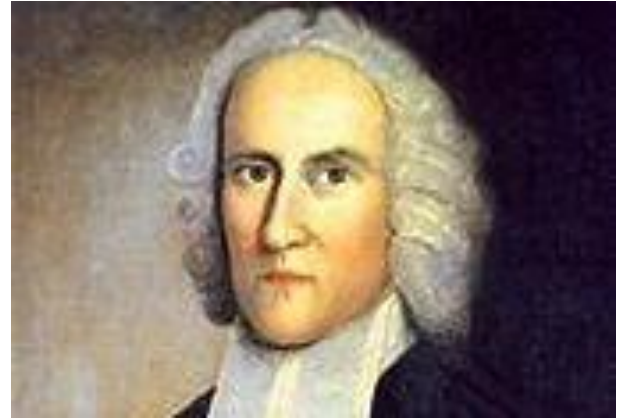


# C. Temple and Tree



## D. Reflections

1. Proclamation of the Gospel



2. The threefold cord





### 3. The courage



## Questions

1. How do we apply Paul's emphasis on the communion of saints in the world church to the reality of our current church and educational situation, which in many cases is characterized by brokenness, church tribalism, theological-cultural conservatism, spiritual individualism, and fear that foreign error doctrine may creep in?
2. Western Christians often emphasize their rational thinking and knowing of the truth. What can we learn from the emphasis in Ephesians 3:17-21 on knowing Christ's love? And what can we learn from Paul's emphasis on thanksgiving and intercession regarding the unity of the church, both locally and globally?
3. What can we do to give "with all the saints" more shape in church, school and society?
4. What factors (forces) go against this? How can these be overcome in love and truth?



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