

THE ROAD, GOD'S OPUS

ōpəs/*noun*: **opus**; plural noun: **opuses**; plural noun: **opera**

1. a musical composition or set of compositions by a particular composer
2. any artistic work, work of art, a creative work

Jesus: "I will build My church (my opus, my magnum opus), and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

- Jesus is building an opus, an artistic composition, named The Road
- The Road is a work of art—the creative touch of God in Colorado Springs
- A coming together of individual works of art, people created in the image of God, to form this magnificent opus, a church dedicated to God's Word and God's Spirit

Theme of the Opus of God

- God spoke to us during 40 nights of prayer...
- "Building wholehearted disciples of Jesus"
- Building children, women, men, youth, adults into Jesus disciples, beginning with winning them into being Jesus followers, but then inviting them to be disciples
- A disciple is a learner, a student, a life long learner
- We build this opus through D Groups and C Groups
- **Jesus built into select men:**

- 1—Jesus in our lives, a one-on-one intimacy with Him. The greatest athletes will tell you the two most important things in being a top athlete: Coaching and Routine
 - Illustration: one pencil breaking
 - 3—Jesus had 3 close friends: Peter, James, and John. 3-5 men or women make up a D Group
 - Illustration: three pencils being broken
 - 12—Jesus had 12 men he poured his life into. This is our C Groups
 - Illustration: trying to break 12 pencils
 - 120—Those men and women who waited on the Holy Spirit→ corporate worship
 - Illustration: 120 pencils—we must have the body of Christ
 - 3000—The first church of Jerusalem→ the whole body of Christ worldwide
- **At The Road we are targeting men:**
 - 5 out of 6 men in the U.S. call themselves Christians
 - 2 out of 6 go to church
 - 61% of the church is made up of women
 - 3 out of 4 married women attend church alone
 - **Road Men's Breakfast with Victor Marx this Saturday...**
 - **Wholeheart Advance, men's retreat Sept 10-13**

Thesis of the Opus of God

Values of The Road

Building Wholehearted Disciples

1. **Discipleship.** We value all Jesus followers becoming wholehearted devoted disciples of Christ through coming alive in passionate love for God, for themselves, and for others. (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. **Transparency.** We openly face and embrace the wilderness, darkness, and shame of our life and place it under the cross and love of Jesus. (Matthew 22:35-40)
3. **Community.** We value gathering, enjoying, and hanging out together as wild, wholehearted, joyful lovers of God and each other. (Matthew 11:19)
4. **Men.** We value the building up of men of God who will develop into servant leaders at work, in the home, and in the church. (2 Timothy 2:2)
5. **Word.** We value the whole counsel of God through expositional preaching of God's Word chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)
6. **Spirit.** We value the Holy Spirit's power to change and transform lives through conversion, conviction of sin, sanctification, empowerment for ministry, and the ongoing work of God on the earth. (Acts 1:8)
7. **Prayer.** We value the power, contemplation, and life transforming nature of deep prayer in knowing and loving God and changing the world. (Matthew 6:5-13)
8. **War.** We believe we were created for spiritual warfare, to fight against Satan and demons in gaining victory for the church in the cause of Christ. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
9. **Beloved.** We value all people as beloved, created in the image of God, whether a Jesus disciple or not. (Mark 2:15-17)
10. **Finances.** We value wise use of all finances by not going into debt but trusting God to provide for all our needs, enabling us to give generously to the mission of changing lives and expanding the kingdom of God on earth. (Matthew 6:19-34; Luke 6:38)
11. **Unity.** We value peacemaking and unity in all conflicted relationships within our community through honesty and sincerely speaking the truth in love and grace to each other. We embrace unity and the bond of love through a Covenant of Harmony. (Matthew 5:9, 21-25; Matthew 18:15-20)

12. **Beauty.** We value beauty and creativity in all its varied forms, whether in forms of art and worship, website, or structures we build. (Psalms 27:4; 48:1-2; 50:1-2; 90:16-17)
13. **Home.** We value the home as the foundation of society and the first place for living out our discipleship. (Ephesians 5:18-6:9)
14. **Spiritual Disciplines.** We value abiding in Christ through the disciplines of prayer, fasting, biblical meditation, solitude, retreat, and Sabbath rest. (John 15)

Tune of God's Opus, The Road...harmony

Agreement, concord. the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect.

A harmony is the combination of different sounds into a unified agreement that produce a beautiful sound, a beautiful symphony

The Tune of this Opus:

Matthew 18:15-20

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that *‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’* And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”¹

- Notice that the context for powerful binding and loosing in prayer is the harmony of the church

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 18:15–20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The Bible says of the early church, “they were of one heart” (Acts 4:32)

- Unity characterized the early church
- Signs and wonders were the result
- Lives were changed because of their unity
- At The Road we are passionate about a unified purpose and vision

Matthew 5:23

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²

What is a Covenant of Harmony?

- It is our belief that all of us have a conviction to follow scripture in all conflicted relationships according to Matt 5 and 18

Why is a Covenant of Harmony needed?

- It provides an avenue for each of us to examine the scriptures and our heart
 - A proactive agreement to be obedient to God’s way of dealing with potential or actual conflict or offenses within the Body of Christ

Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Rom 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

Rom 15:6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 5:23–24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We are a faith family. Within any family we will have conflicts. Mathematically, time spent with spouse and faith family are of a quantity that simple probability demands we will have more opportunity for conflict with each other and our families than anyone else who crosses our paths.

There are four primary causes of conflict:

- 1. Misunderstandings resulting from poor communication (see Joshua 22:10-34)**
 - 2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, or opinions (see Acts 15:39; 1 Cor. 12:12-31)**
 - 3. Competition over limited resources, such as time or money (see Gen. 13:1-12)**
 - 4. Sinful attitudes and habits that lead to sinful words and actions (see James 4:1-2)**
- Conflicts are not necessarily bad...when handled biblically and lovingly they can often bring us closer together and closer to God

***A COVENANT OF HARMONY
FOR
THE ROAD***

As a member of The Road, I recognize we represent Christ and His Church. As such, we function on clearly defined biblical principles regarding interpersonal relationships both within The Road, as well as without, including how and what we communicate from our on-the-job

experiences and situations with other believers and even nonbelievers whether within or without the church.

I hereby pledge in all I do to follow biblical principles that would seek always to foster harmony throughout fellowship of The Road. In accordance with the biblical mandate of Matthew 18:15-17, if I question the conduct of another, or if I hear of accusations that may be shared with me (or others) regarding a fellow brother or sister, no matter his or her position, I will go first to that specific person to discuss this matter with him or her before going to any other individual.

If there is a clear rejection of a genuine attempt to offer spiritual correction or admonition, I will further follow the Matthew 18: 15-17 pattern and take with me another brother or sister to mediate the situation, carefully refusing to allow the matter to become a potential “seed of discord” (dissension) that once planted will ultimately become an abomination to God (Proverbs 6:16-19).

I further acknowledge that God’s biblical pattern of settling disputes among believers is never to seek a secular public forum (I Corinthians 6:1-8) but rather to go to responsible leadership in His Church for a full resolve of the situation.

I do recognize that to violate the above would be to openly declare my lack of trust in God’s biblical plan for harmony and would thereby position myself in opposition to what God Himself has declared to be His way of working healing in His Church. To be in such opposition would potentially disqualify me from future blessings of God because of my open disobedience to His Word.

I therefore, in the true Spirit of Christ who became a bondservant with the attitude of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8), hereby covenant with the members of The Road, to expose the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10) whenever he attempts to gain a foothold among us. I will do this by prayerfully invoking and inviting the Encourager of the Brethren, Christ Himself (who is called in Scripture “The Lifter of My Head” – Psalm 3:3) to come and work His harmony and healing in every difficult situation I may encounter.

7 Practical Ways of Resolving Conflicts

1. We will meet face to face to resolve conflicts.
2. We will not use e-mail or texting for resolving conflicts.
3. We will not write a letter unless the person reads it, during a face-to-face meeting.
4. We will use “I” messages, not “you” messages, in communication.
5. We will be willing to admit our error and contribution to a problem, before speaking the truth about a conflict.
6. We will choose to let the unity of love be our highest goal, not being right.
7. We will forgive the other person even if all the issues are not completely worked out.

By signing this document I agree to abide by the “Covenant of Harmony” policy.

Signed _____

Date _____

Print _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____

**“Let every matter be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”
Matthew 18:16**