



IMMANUEL  
GOD WITH US

“More than any before us, an American today believes ‘I must write the script of my own life: the thought that such a script must be subordinated to the grand narrative of the Bible is a foreign one.’

Still more alarming is the idea  
that this surrender of our  
personal story to God's story  
must be mediated by a  
community of fallen people

who we frankly don't want getting  
in our way and meddling with our  
own hopes and dreams.”

Tod Bolsinger, *It Takes a Church  
to Raise a Christian*, 22-23.



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As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...

I Peter 2:4-5



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But you are a chosen people, a  
royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God's special possession...

1 Peter 2:9



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“I appeal to you therefore,  
brothers, by the mercies of God,  
to present your bodies as a living  
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to  
God, which is your spiritual  
worship.”

Romans 12:1



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“Something holy happens around a dinner table that will never happen in a sanctuary. In a church auditorium you see the back of heads. Around the table you see the expressions on faces.

In the auditorium one person  
speaks; around the table  
everyone has a voice... You think  
your house is small, but to the  
lonely heart, it is a castle.

You think the living room is a mess, but to the person whose life is a mess, your house is a sanctuary.

You think the meal is simple, but to those who eat alone every night, pork and beans on paper plates tastes like filet mignon.”

Max Lucado



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Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:11-12



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...that you may declare the  
praises of him who called you out  
of darkness into his wonderful  
light.

1 Peter 2:9



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“You can’t know God, change deeply, or change the world apart from community.”

Tim Keller

If God is with “us” what’s God asking of me?

Do I need to change my thinking about spiritual community (the church)?

If God is with “us” what’s God asking of me?

Do I need to engage or re-engage with my spiritual community (the church)?

If God is with “us” what’s God asking of me?

Do I need to actively live out what I declare?