

DROPPING YOUR GUARD: THE VALUE OF OPEN RELATIONSHIPS

OPERATION ASSIMILATION

JOSHUA 1:1–18



The Heart of the Matter

A vast difference exists between watching something happen and being involved in what happens. For many, church becomes a “spectator sport”—a few exhausted, burned-out believers knock themselves out to run the ministries and activities, while the majority sit back and observe from a distance. This is a far cry from the way the body of Christ was designed to function! In this message, we’ll focus on the problems of “spectatorism” and how we as members of the church body can overcome congregational apathy. The ancient Hebrews were *forced* to work together and get involved in taking the land of Canaan. In their example, we find some practical direction for our own lives.



Discovering the Way

1. Crucial Issues We Must Face

Members of the church today must become active participants in the function of the body of Christ. We must work with and care for other members of the body in love.

2. How the Hebrews Handled It (Joshua 1:1–18)

God’s people determined the direction of their future. They accepted the challenge of occupying their land without fear of failure. They forgot their differences and closed ranks in unity. They abandoned themselves to the plan and fixed their eyes on the Lord.



Starting Your Journey

For us to go on, we must pull together and go deeper. For me to be involved, I must reach out and risk relationships. This means that we must all be willing to adapt and adjust our lives accordingly.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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