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30 A.D.: The Upper Room, Temple Courts, Homes

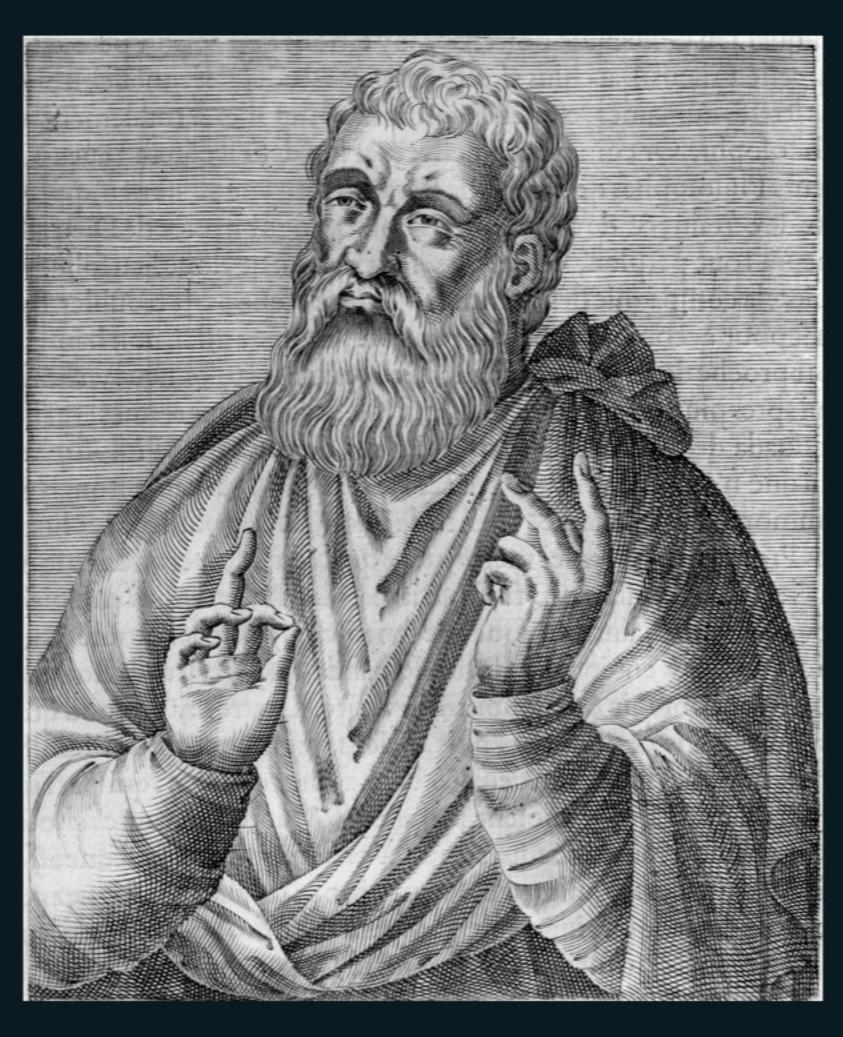
When [the apostles] arrived, they went <u>upstairs to the room</u> where they were staying . . . ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 1:12-14 (NIV)

⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread <u>in their homes</u> and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2:46 (NIV)

Rome, The Trial of Justin Martyr



"I have been living above the baths for the entire period of my sojourn at Rome...and I have known no other meeting place but here. Anyone who desired could come to my residence, and I would give to him the words of truth."

Dura-Europas, First Known Dedicated Christian Church Building, Converted from Multiple Homes



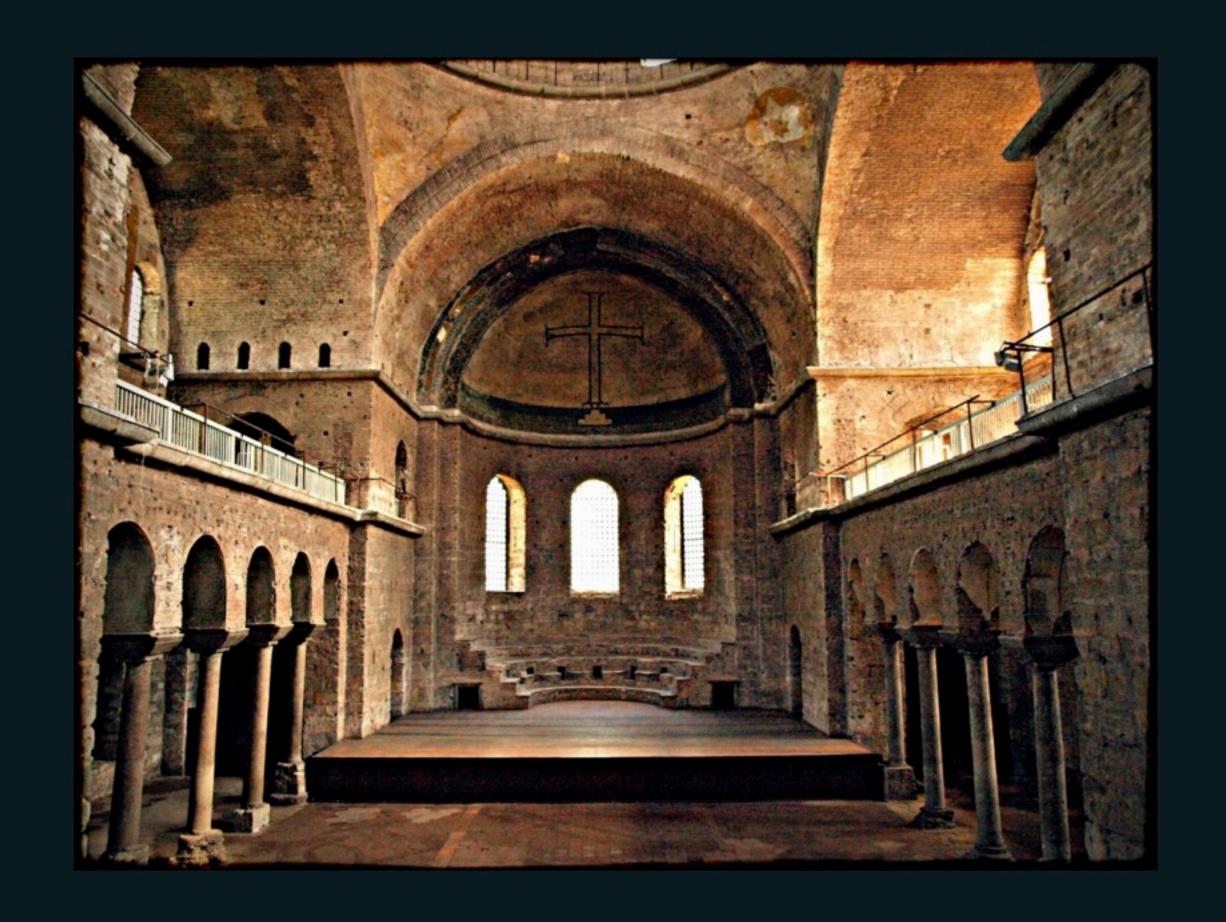


Alexandria, Greece The Church Gathered in Cemeteries on the Outskirts of Town





Constantine, the First
Emperor to
make Christianity the
national religion, established
the first construction
projects of dedicated church
buildings



Real Community

A Gospel-centered group of people that form a local body and live by the power of the Word and Spirit

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. ⁹God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you 10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. 11 long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

Romans 1:8-13 (NIV)

¹²that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. 13 do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

Romans 1:8-13 (NIV)

Real Community Was Not Marked By Physical Presence, But by Prayer

Real Community Was Not Marked By Group Strength, But Individual Strength

Real Community Was Not Marked By Natural Connections, But Spirit Power