

My family and I visited Sommer's family in Cleveland for Thanksgiving. We stayed with her mom and had a room and bathroom in the back, all of which had been renovated in recent years. I was in the bathroom one night brushing my teeth, when I noticed an interesting Mosaic Tile Pattern on the wall behind me. I stared at it for a couple of minutes. Then I finished brushing and turned around and stared at it several more minutes, with wheels a turning. It began to represent some spiritual points to me. So when we got home I told Sommer I wanted to preach a "bathroom tile sermon." To which she replied: "Not another one!" (Praying in the Spirit – 9 Bathroom tiles). But I just have to say: I just can't forget it. I think the basic imprint of that image and the Truths it represents to me will carry me into 2018 stronger than ever, and I just want to take a few minutes and share it with you. (Image)

### 1. God Made All Things

- a. The border of the mosaic represents God's Power – His control. He made all things.
- b. Within these borders is all the universe and every single thing within it, at least in its sinless and pure, light and God-intended purpose.
- c. **Acts 17:24-29** – We don't put God in a box. God made the box.
  - i. We are ALWAYS within the scope of His power, view, and abilities
  - ii. He is ALWAYS outside of all the limitations we have
    1. Like the designer/installer (3D) of the tile outside of the tile (2D)

*But then God extended His Power in a special way INSIDE of the Scope of All Created Things:*

### 2. Christ Built His One True Church

- a. A Kingdom inside of a Kingdom. Power designed within the confines of all things.
- b. **Daniel 2:35,44** – Not like any other kingdom, this one will endure and spread.
- c. **Matthew 16:16-19** – More powerful than even Satan and death, with a rule so secure that things settled about it from heaven and in Christ would never be altered.
- d. And notice the lighter flowery design – within this church are blessings not found outside of it – Woven all through it blessings NOW and FOREVER – **Matthew 5:1-12**.

*Inside or amongst the One Church, the Spirit established an important local fellowship of believers.*

### 3. The Spirit Guides Local Churches

- a. While there are thousands of these subsets within the One Church, for me, there is one – this church, the Lindale church, my local fellowship. It exists ONLY INSIDE the one true church, it consists of people located together by TIME and SPACE.
- b. But it comes with its own BORDER, it too is contained within the AUTHORITY of God.
- c. In fact, the Holy Spirit tells us everything about it, how it works:
  - i. Organization – **Acts 14:23** (Local elderships autonomous and qualified)
  - ii. Worship – **I Corinthians 14:26, 34** (singing and praying and teaching / roles)
  - iii. Action – **I Corinthians 16:1-2** (Giving to help needy saints / support evangelism)
- d. We have no right to decide how this works, no more than CREATION and the ONE CHURCH. The Holy Spirit limits and directs and builds and we work within it.
- e. And it's a great work – **Philippians 1:27; 2:1-5** – How great is that!?

So I've labeled this tile: The Mosaic of Me – which represents me, but really each person needs to find their "me" in this. Now you might say: "Wait, isn't this about everything else but me (or you)? Well, it certainly represents the Godhead and everything else, which is bigger than me... but I have to find me.

**I must find my place, my purpose, inside of the creation of God, the lordship of Jesus, the direction of the Holy Spirit: in my life, in the church, and in this church.**

I have to find myself, as do you, somewhere within the confines of all that God has done.  
Four last things to think about:

**Outside of the Tile: This cannot be me**

**John 1:3** – “apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” That means you. Many have tried to live without God, or more to the point, outside of God’s government. This place does not exist. It has not been created. Accept it. You live in God’s Hand. You live by God’s Will. Live for God’s Will.

**In the Corner: This Must Not Be Me**

**Romans 1:18-24** – God has revealed Himself. God has proven Himself. But not all men will announce His right to rule. Many will suppress the Truth and do as they please. And God will let them. God will give them over to the dark corners of life outside of the riches of Jesus.  
**Romans 1:18** – “*the wrath of God*” – I cannot let that stand. **Romans 6:4-7** – I want more.

**In His One Church: This is Where I am Blessed**

**Romans 5:1-5** – Everything everyone is searching for under the sun is in Christ. Many have walked away, given up the fight, given in to the world –but to what end?!  
Jesus wants to encircle my life with blessings and protection. I will live here forever.

**In this Local Church: This is where I am a Blessing**

**Ephesians 2:8-10** – God has work for me to do, as an individual and in local churches.  
**Ephesians 4:11-16** – We have work to do, locally and under His rule.  
- We have roles to fill, truth to stand for, worship to offer.  
- God’s plan is for people to find a local church and contribute (be a blessing)

- 1) WHERE AM I?
  - a. In a fictitious place outside of God?
  - b. Under God but outside His Son’s Blessings?
  - c. In the Body of Christ, blessed but going it alone?
  - d. Inside Christ’s body and flourishing in local fellowship?
- 2) WHERE SHOULD I BE?
- 3) WHAT CAN I DO FIND ME IN THE MIDDLE OF GOD’S GOOD WORK?