



Walk by Faith

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

The Invitation

Journey Together

Invitation – Journey Together

- when I receive an invitation it's important to be clear what I am responding to
 - what is it I am invited to
 - what do I need to respond to
- desire to be clear regarding who we are, what we are inviting you to be a part of
- today – our convictions about discipleship here and our desire to have you join us in discovery, demonstration and duplication

1. God Invites Us to.....

a) to relationship

***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
John 3:16-17***

- you were apart from God – Eph. 2:1-5
- Christ made a way on the cross – Eph. 2:5-9

b) To Response

- by accepting for yourself
- ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” 2 Cor. 5:17:19***

c) To Family

- adopted son's and daughters
- called the family of God

- Eph. 1:4 “even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

d) To Maturity

- grow up in your faith
- be mature, grounded, informed, stable

- Eph. 4:14 “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

***Join us in a journey of discovery in relationship**

2. God is clear about how and why

a) clear about how we operate as family

-- 59 one anothers in N.T. (love one another, greet one another, consider one another, out do one another, bear with one another, comfort one another, forgive one another...)

- Colossians 3:12-17 **“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other;**

as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

c) clear about our family mission

Matt 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- All Authority
 - huge statement, over..... Everything
 - demonstrated by Jesus over and over
- Go make disciples of all nations
 - as you live life – be about this mission
 - your life, uniquely and purposefully given, has been placed here (Psalm 139, Acts 17)
 - by design from God.
 - you have a role in making disciples

- Teaching them to observe what I commanded You.

- Baptizing Them

 - participation publicly

 - presence of Holy Spirit

- I am with you always – to the end of the age

 - Rom 8 – nothing can separate us

 - when what I ask is counter cultural

 - when following me brings persecution

 - when disciple making isn't convenient

- always

b) clear about the gifting & empowering

- 1 Cor. 12:4-7 **“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”**

- Eph. 4:15-16 **“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

- gifts of Holy Spirit and roles in Body critical
- **Romans 12:4-5 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them”**
- * Join us in a journey of demonstrating – living out in our relationships and world what we discover about God and his purpose for us

3. God desires to work through our participation

a) witness to the world

- people set apart, different, children of God

- Phil 2:15 **“that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”**

- Rom. 10:14 **“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”**

- called ambassadors – 2 Cor. 5:18-21
- known by our love – John 14

b) God desires to partner with us

- Eph. 2:10 **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”**

c) Holy Spirit enabled – divine power for life

- 2 Peter 1:3 **“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence”**

- taking our obedience and participation, the Holy Spirit enables and empowers
- Mark 6 – feeding of 5000
 - multiplied the insufficient to accomplish the impossible

* Join us in a journey of duplicating faith by obedience to God's loving instruction on life, witness to world, and allowing the Spirit to use our little accomplishing the impossible

So What

1. Need to respond to the invitation of God for relationship, embrace the family and pursue maturity.
 - we are committed to discovering Jesus & His design for life
2. Embrace the design of God for family relationship and mission.
 - cannot do it alone – community matters
 - cannot opt out – will of God in Christ for us
 - we are committed to demonstrating

3. Determine you will allow God to work through you.

- embrace of Holy Spirit in your life
- intentional about witness and our world
- offering up your insufficient amount for duplication

4. Join Us – we would love to journey together

- attend our membership lunch
- jump in and lets learn and grow together