



THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU

Living in Community

Last Week 3 Pictures

Bride of Christ

- love, anticipation, drawn to intimacy

Body

- connected for survival, built to function,

Family

- security, belonging, inheritance

Today – Community

connection with others based on.....

Call to Community Different for Christians

1. We were all in the same boat!

- human condition has some absolutes
- born apart from God
- Rom. 5:12 *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”*
- Rom. 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

- interesting response in us
 - a) desire to compare and justify
 - but I am much better than.....
 - my intent is right, good heart.....
 - but God is loving and wouldn't.....
 - not fair, that's impossible.....
 - truth – we needed something we could never earn or deserve – we needed saving

2. God Lovingly took Action

- John 3:16-17 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 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.”*

- Col 1:13 *“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

- Rom. 5:8-11 *“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

3. Made New – Full Sons and Daughters

- 2 Cor. 5:17-21 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*”

3. Made New – Full Sons and Daughters

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

a) Have a Father

- family name – Eph.1

b) All Adopted

- chosen and given full rights

c) Have an Inheritance

- now and for eternity

d) Belonging to the Family Visible

- agents of reconciliation

4. Clear Instructions Regarding Life in the Family

- ambassadors, ministry of reconciliation
- conformed into the image of Christ
- design for the body of Christ to function
- Rom. 12:9-13 *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”*

- gifts and roles provided. Rom. 12:5-6 *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them”*

a) visibility – seen and participating

b) growth anticipated – mature, rooted, fruit

c) relationship with others essential

- 54 one anothers

5. The difference between knowing & being known

- genuine – without hypocrisy
- brotherly affection – love offered freely
- seek to outdo – show honor
- hospitality

So What?

1. Biblical Community looks different
 - basis is the gospel
2. God has adopted all – He decides
 - cannot choose your family
3. You have a commission, a role
 - clear you are gifted, empowered, expected to mature & bear fruit, works prepared for you
4. Growth for you and others depends on this
 - there is a place for you here