

Come Together 2

The Church: A Family, a Fellowship,
and the Body of Christ!



The Purpose Driven Life! (Rick Warren)

- ▶ #1 You Were Planned for God's Pleasure
- ▶ #2 You Were Formed for God's Family

- ▶ **Can you define what a Christian is without mentioning the church?**
 - Hebrews 2:10a
 - 1 John 3:1

- ▶ **God wants a family, and he created you to be a part of it.**
 - Ephesians 1:5
 - James 1:18

▶ **Life's Greatest Privilege**

- **Ephesians 2:19 TLB**
 - **Hebrews 2:11-13 TLB**
- ▶ Being included in God's family is the highest honor and the greatest privilege you will ever receive. Nothing else comes close. Whenever you feel unimportant, unloved, or insecure, remember to whom you belong.

▶ **A Place of Belonging and Being!**

- ▶ **Ephesians 2:19 TLB**
- ▶ **1 Timothy 3:15 GWT**

▶ **WE ARE CALLED TO BELONG, NOT JUST BELIEVE.**

BEING the Gospel

- ▶ You and I cannot demonstrate love or joy or peace or patience or kindness sitting all by ourselves on an island. No, we demonstrate it when the people we have committed to loving give us good reasons not to love them, but we do anyway.
 - ▶ Do we see it? It's right there—right in the midst of a group of sinners who have committed to loving one another—**that the gospel is displayed.**
 - ▶ Together we can display the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way we just can't by ourselves.
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Experiencing Life Together - LIFE IS MEANT TO BE SHARED.

- ▶ God intends for us to experience life together. The Bible calls this **shared experience fellowship**.
- ▶ Real fellowship is so much more than just showing up at services. **It is experiencing life together.**
 - It includes:
 - unselfish loving,
 - honest sharing,
 - practical serving,
 - sacrificial giving,
 - sympathetic comforting,
 - and all the other “**one another**” commands found in the New Testament.

- ▶ **On a scale of 1 to 10:**
 - ▶ What would we give KFOC for experiencing life together?
 - ▶ What would you give yourself for sharing life together with others at KFOC?
 - ▶ Could you list those at KFOC you share life together with at KFOC:
 - Often
 - Occasionally
 - Seldom
 - ▶ What steps are you willing to take experience life more together with others at KFOC?
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(Purpose Driven Life – Rick Warren)

What Matters Most - LIFE IS ALL ABOUT LOVE.

- ▶ Because God is love, the most important lesson he wants you to learn on earth is how to love.
 - **Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law can be summed up in this one command: "Love others as you love yourself." TLB
- ▶ Remember; #2 You Were Formed for God's Family
 - **1 Peter 2:17b** "Show special love for God's people." CEV
 - **Galatians 6:10** When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers. NCV
 - **John 13:35** Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples." TLB
- ▶ Love cannot be learned in isolation. You have to be around people — irritating, imperfect, frustrating people.

Feel Good or Authentic Fellowship

- ▶ **In real fellowship people experience authenticity.** Authentic fellowship is not superficial, surface-level chit-chat. It is genuine, heart-to-heart, sometimes gut-level, sharing.
- ▶ It happens when people get honest about who they are and what is happening in their lives. They share their hurts, reveal their feelings, confess their failures, disclose their doubts, admit their fears, acknowledge their weaknesses, and ask for help and prayer.
- ▶ **In authentic fellowship people experience mutuality.** Mutuality is the art of giving and receiving. It's depending on each other.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, 26 the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. 27 You are Christ's body — that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. The Message

- ▶ **Mutuality is the heart of fellowship:** building reciprocal relationships, sharing responsibilities, and helping each other.
 - Paul said, “I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you. (Romans 1:12 NCV)
- ▶ All of us are more consistent in our faith when others walk with us and encourage us.
 - Romans 12:10-13 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. NASU
- ▶ Over fifty times in the New Testament we are commanded to do different tasks to “one another” and “each other.”
- ▶ *You are not responsible for everyone in the Body of Christ, but you are responsible to them.* God expects you to do whatever you can to help them.

- ▶ **In authentic fellowship people experience sympathy.** Sympathy is not giving advice or offering quick, cosmetic help; sympathy is entering in and sharing the pain of others.
- ▶ Sympathy says, “I understand what you’re going through, and what you feel is neither strange nor crazy.” Today some call this “empathy,” but the biblical word is “sympathy.”
 - Colossians 3:12 As holy people . . . be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. GWT
 - Galatians 6:2 Share each other’s troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” NLT
- ▶ It is in the times of deep crisis, grief, and doubt that we need each other most. When circumstances crush us to the point that our faith falters, that’s when we need believing friends the most. Job 6:14

- ▶ **In authentic fellowship people experience mercy.**
Fellowship is a place of grace, where mistakes aren't rubbed in but rubbed out. Fellowship happens when mercy wins over justice.
- ▶ We all need mercy, because we all stumble and fall and require help getting back on track. We need to offer mercy to each other and be willing to receive it from each other.
 - 2 Corinthians 2:5-8
- ▶ You can't have fellowship without forgiveness.
Bitterness and resentment always destroy fellowship.
- ▶ **HURT PEOPLE, HURT PEOPLE**

- ▶ Because we're imperfect, sinful people, we inevitably hurt each other when we're together for a long enough time.
 - Colossians 3:13-15 Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. TLB
- ▶ Remember, you will never be asked to forgive someone else more than God has already forgiven you.
- ▶ Whenever you are hurt by someone, you have a choice to make: **Will I use my energy and emotions for retaliation or for resolution? You can't do both.**

