

# The Value of Relational Connection In God's Faith-Family

Ephesians 2:19 – 22

A portion of our purpose statement includes the words, "Our Mission is to love God, love others, and reach the world. This means we are saying there are good reasons for Christians to participate in God's family of faith.

## WHY?

1. People Desire to Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:35; Romans 15:7)

### We are to love:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ – "And He said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. (Mt 22:37, 38)

2) \_\_\_\_\_ – "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' (Mt 22:39)

3) \_\_\_\_\_ – "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34, 35)

Love also means we \_\_\_\_\_ others – "accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

2. We are a \_\_\_\_\_, Not \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10; Mark 10:28 – 30)

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of **God's household**," (Eph. 2:19)

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the **household of the faith**." (Gal 6:10)

"Peter began to say to Him, 'Behold, we have left everything and followed You.' Jesus said, 'Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.'" (Mark 10:28 – 30)

3. We Must Grow \_\_\_\_\_ As We Grow \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 2:21, 22)

"in whom the whole building, being **fitted together**, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being **built together** into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

Small groups can accomplish this because they allow people to:

- Be known
- Personalize their faith
- Make friends
- Have accountability
- Become verbal

#### 4. We Realize The Importance of \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ Principles

- Be \_\_\_\_\_ to one another – Loyalty (Rom. 12:10a,)
- \_\_\_\_\_ one another – Complimenting (Rom. 12:10b)
- \_\_\_\_\_ one another – Without judging or showing partiality (Rom. 15:7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ one another – Showing a balance (Rom. 15:14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ one another – Cheerfully (Rom. 16:16)

\*These are only a few of the one-another principles. A complete list is available upon request.

#### 5. We Value the Benefits of Membership

- **It identifies us as a \_\_\_\_\_ believer** (Rom. 12:1 – 5).  
*“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*

- **It gives us a \_\_\_\_\_ where we are “officially” recognized as being part of a family of faith.**

- **It gives us a spiritual family to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us.**  
*“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”* (Galatians 6:1, 2)

*“Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24, 25)

- **It provides us a place to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ our spiritual gifts in ministry**  
*“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”* (Romans 12:6 – 8).

- **It places us \_\_\_\_\_ the spiritual protection of godly leaders and teachers.**  
*“But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13)

*“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”* (Hebrews 13:17)

- **It gives us the opportunity for accountability, usefulness and personal growth** (1 Cor. 12:12 – 27).

***Participation and Membership for us is a step of spiritual growth in building better relationships, rather than an organizational ritual.***

## **Circle COMMUNITY Church**

**C**ommitment to Scripture Truth and Application

**O**utreach to Others, Locally and Globally

**M**agnify Jesus Christ

**M**inister to One Another Doing Our Best

**U**nity of the Body

**N**ecessity of Prayer

**I**nvolvement in Small Groups

**T**raining of Servant-Leaders

**Y**ou and Your Family's Spiritual Growth

### **ASK YOURSELF...**

1. What am I doing to demonstrate a caring spirit toward other believers in God's church?
2. Do I see Circle Community Church as a church to attend, or a family of believers to help?
3. Am I participating in a small group ministry?
4. With what person am I fulfilling each of the one – another principles?
5. Have I committed to becoming a member here?

### **ACTION STEPS...**

1. I will identify at least one person for each of the one – another principles to whom I am going to demonstrate it.
2. If I am not a member of Circle Community Church, I will seriously pray about becoming one.
3. If I am a member of Circle Community Church, I will share with others my story of benefits of being a member.

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