

## **The Church as a Family: *How to Accomplish* (2 of 3)**

*Psalm 133:1*

### **1. Began this series w/discussion of God's plan for the church**

- a. That out of all of the metaphors and illustrations...Family used the most (*Eph. 5, 11:2, Heb 2, Eph. 1, etc...*)
- b. Establishing a sense of family in every local church is more than a suggestion (*Matt. 19:27-30*)
- c. Church families are necessary for sustained growth in local churches

### **2. Becoming a close knit family doesn't happen automatically:**

- a. Even in physical families, growing together and establishing meaningful relationships takes work and time. (*Dad, Brother, etc. may not have always been close*)
- b. It takes a decision by the group to actively work on making up that which is lacking
- c. It is to that end that our second lesson will look for ways to accomplish the goal of growing closer

### **3. To that end, it would be wise to consider some of the responsibilities physical families have towards one another.**

- a. By no means an exhaustive list...
- b. Some areas to get us thinking...

#### **c. Families:**

##### *i. Provide Teaching About God's Word:*

1. Already looked at Deut. 6:7-9, (Repeated in 11:19-20), Deut. 4:9-10
  - a. Three times within the span of 7 chapters, the point is made that God expected families to provide teaching about Him and His word:
  - b. That same sentiment is echoed by Paul in various ways in his epistles: (**Titus 2:1-5**, which I believe is built upon another reference in 1 Timothy 5:1-2

##### *ii. Families Tell us What we Need to Hear:*

1. Jacob denouncing his families Idolatry: Gen. 35:2-4
2. Moses having to realign Aaron and Miriam: Num. 12, Ex. 32
3. Jonathan having to stand up to Saul: 1 Sam.14, 19, 20

a. That Same responsibility is what is born out in **1 Tim. 5:1-2**

*iii. Bear Each Others Burdens*

1. Wives Bear that of the Husband (*Gen. 24:67*)
2. Husband that of the wife: (*1 Pet. 3:7*)
3. Brother's and sister's fierce loyalty to each other seen throughout Kings...
  - a. Again, a mission that we are given today: (**Gal. 6:1-2,9-10**)

*iv. Provide Companionship*

1. It is not good for man to be alone! (*Gen. 2:18*)
2. Through tough times: (**Pr. 17:17**)
  - a. We often warn of the perils of bad companionships corrupting us:
    - i. Ahab and Jehoshaphat, *1 Ki. 22*, Jehoram, *2 Ki. 3*
    - ii. Outright warnings: *1 Cor. 15:33*
    - iii. The company of Godly men is the obvious and natural solution:

**4. The Fulfillment of Each of These Needs has the same building block: *Spending Time Together:***

**a. Teaching Each Other...Means taking the time to do it:**

- i. Are you taking advantage of classes, studies that are being offered?
  1. Why Not? Have you taken steps to address those concerns so that you can attend?
- ii. Are you setting up studies with an individual? Are you seeking out someone to teach you?

**b. Telling Each Other the Truth...Means taking time to figure out how to communicate:**

- i. A lot of damage has been done under the banner of "I was just being honest" or "I was just telling them what they needed to hear", or Claiming to speak in Love...
  1. The Bible is very straightforward when it comes to taking drastic measures when someone is living openly in Sin and rebellion against God:
    - a. John the Baptist...Peter to Simon, etc..
    - b. But Paul also advocates patience when dealing with our brethren: in *Rom. 14*, a heart of **Col. 3:12-13**, **1 Thess. 5:14**, **2 Tim. 2:24**

- c. If we are going to accomplish effective communication in a constructive manner, it will be through patiently learning to communicate with each other...

**c. Bearing each Others burdens...Means taking time to discover them:**

- i. Unfortunately, sometimes brethren adopt the attitude of “I can’t help if they don’t ask for it”
- ii. We mentioned Gal. 6, but **James 2:15-16** comes to mind as well:
  - i. What good is it if we say we have a willingness to help bear burdens, and yet we don’t actively seek to find brethren to help?
    - a. Have you noticed that someone seems to always be a little down when you greet them? Ask whats wrong!!!
    - b. Have you noticed that someone has missed a lot of services lately, or doesn’t seem to be very engaged when they are here? Ask whats wrong!!!
    - c. Have you noticed that someone has had a series of events happen in their life? Ask to help!
      - i. Don’t wait around to be asked! Seek out ways to help: Financially, Emotionally, Physically...

**d. Companionship...Means spending time together!**

- i. The early disciples did this often! Acts 2:42-47
  - 1. The early disciples worshipped a lot-- But they also spent a great deal of time together!
  - 2. How much time to you see your brethren outside of services?
  - 3. Would it be too much to commit to seeing each other once a week? Meeting for lunch? having a family over for dinner? are you going to watch a game? invite someone! Do you feel like your kids have to have a certain amount of fun? Invite others for a play date! Do you have a hobby? do it with a brother or sister:
  - 4. The point is this: Godly companionship is vital to strength as a Christian: The source is our family: Twice on Sunday and Once on Wednesday is Laughable.