

Influence Ministries

WHY AM I HERE?

LESSON 3

TITLE: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'S FAMILY.

In this lesson tonight, we're going to look at another purpose why you are here... that is for fellowship.

Fellowship with God's family.

God doesn't just want you to know Him and love Him, he also wants you to know and love His family.

1 Timothy 3:15

That family is the church of the living God.

The church is not:

A building

A company

An institution

A club

An event

The church is a family.

It's a family you belong to.

It's the spiritual family of God.

We are not all God's children... we were all created by God, but not all His children unless we place ourselves into His family through salvation.

Ephesian 1:5

God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His family by bringing us to Himself...

I'm not automatically in His family, I'm brought into His family.

John 1:12

But all who received Jesus Christ, to them - that is, to those who trust in His name - He has given the privilege of becoming the children of God.

It's only through Him that we become His children.

The #1 responsibility in the family of God is this... you have to learn to love everyone else.

In other words, you're in my family.

The #1 reason God wants us to love one another, is so the world will see our love and will want to become a part of God's family too.

Life is about loving one another.

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This is why the purpose of fellowship is all about.

There are 4 levels of fellowship.

The 1st level of fellowship is the sharing together.

You share conversations.

You share meals.

You share ideas.

The more you share with somebody, the more you grow to love them.

The early church was great at this.

Acts 2:44

All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other.

You can't build a relationship together without spending time together.

It's true in the church.

It's true in our connect groups.

It's true in your family.

You build great relationships by spending time together.

If you don't have any close relationships, it's because you're not taking time to spend with other people.

This is why Community Groups are so important.

I hope your relationship continues after our Community Groups end.

This is where true fellowship happens. In a small group.

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... instead, let us encourage one another...

Notice, it's a habit. A habit is something you do over and over.

You need to make fellowship a habit.

The first three centuries there were no churches. Everyone met in their homes.

1 Peter 4:9

Open your homes to each other, without complaining.

When you let people into your home, you let people into your life.

You can't learn to love people if you're always shutting them out of your home and your life.

Community Group Life is the first level of love.

It's learning the fellowship of sharing.

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What should I share.

Share your experiences.

What's going on in your life

What happen to you this week

1 Corinthian 14:26

When you gather... each one of you be prepared with something that will be useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight... Take your turn, no one person taking over... and you all learn from each other.

Share your support.

You support each other.

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

When you share your joy, your joy is doubled, because someone else becomes joyful too.

When you share your sorrow, your sorrow is cut in half because someone else is now caring your burden with you.

Sharing is where love begins.

The 2nd level of fellowship is belonging together.

1st level is sharing.

2nd level is belonging.

Be committed to each other as we are committed to God.

That's belonging.

Belonging is the difference between dating and getting married.

The difference between a casual attender and a member of the church.

The difference between be a spectator at church and being a participator at church.

The difference between being an outside watching things happen and being an insider making things happen.

That's belonging. That's God's 2nd goal for your life.

Ephesians 2:19

You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

We're not just believers, we're belongers.

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Being a Christian is more than just believing - it's belonging. Without a church, you don't have a spiritual home.

Let me be clear on this. You cannot fulfill God's purpose in your life without other people in your life, and that's called the church.

Romans 12:5

In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

You belong to all others... see, belonging is not optional.

1 John 4:21

The person who loves God must also love other believers.

That's a command.

1 Peter 2:17

Love your spiritual family.

You show your love to people by taking a step to become a member of this church.

Not just a believer, but a believer.

3rd level of fellowship is serving together.

1st we share together.

2nd we belong together.

3rd we serve together.

If you want to deepen the love in your marriage.

If you want to deepen the love in your friendship.

If you want to deepen the love in your connect group.

Here's the secret, start serving God together.

This is the level you partner for a common purpose.

You pool your resources.

When this happens, it takes your group to a whole deeper level.

What causes veterans to keep in contact with other vets?

It's there level of serving in the military together. A bond.

God never meant for you to serve Him alone.

1 Corinthians 3:9

We are partners working together for God.

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When you partner, you get more done for God.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together.

Serving together takes you to a deeper level of love that you can't find any other way.

Ephesians 4:16

The whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

4th level of fellowship is suffer together

1st we share together.

2nd we belong together.

3rd we serve together.

4th we suffer together.

This is the deepest most intimate form of love.

Love grows deepest when we suffer together.

When you share pain.

When you share hurt.

When you share a heart ache.

It's going to draw you closer to people when you walk through it together.

Suffering makes us more human.

It's also unifying. It brings us closer together.

When a community experiences disaster, they all come together to help restore normality.

Galatians 6:2

Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

What is the law of Christ? It's to love your neighbor as yourself.

When you serve together you do your part, but when you suffer together, you share your heart.

Do you ever have that level of suffering/fellowship with anybody?

Do you ever take any time in your life to help somebody that's in pain? Or are you too busy?

If you're never taking time to help somebody in pain, you're too busy.

You're missing one of the major purposes of your life.

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Because it's all about relationships.

Listen very closely... relationships are more important than accomplishments.
More important than achievements.
More important than success.
More important than money.

Why, because life is all about learning how to love.

If you don't learn how to love God... Worship.
If you don't learn how to love other people... Fellowship

Your life is wasted in God's eyes.

This is a part of why you're here.

Sharing.
Belonging.
Serving.
Suffering.

1 Corinthians 12:26
If one member suffers, all suffer together.

Romans 12:10
Be devoted to each other like a loving family.

You are to treat every Christian woman as a sister, and every Christian man as a brother.

You're in the same family. The family of God.

1 John 3:16
We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters.

That's the real meaning of fellowship. Being committed to each other as we are to Christ.

If we could start practicing these 4 things, we would not be able to hold all the people

Sharing.
Belonging.
Serving.
Suffering.

Let's start it in our Communitive Groups.