



## Our Church A Family (part 2) March 13, 2005

### Message

Beginning a series on: "Our Church A Family"

Overview of this series:

1. The Church As A Family – A Biblical Truth
2. Implications of the local church being a family
3. Family Culture – Values, Purposes, Dreams
4. Family Practices
5. Family Roles & Relationships : Fathers & Mothers, Sons & Daughters
6. Family Discipline
7. Spiritual Fathering
8. Spiritual Sons & Daughters
9. Family Heritage
10. Family Traditions

Last Sunday we discussed 1. & 2.

### **Quick Review:**

- God's intent for His people is that they be His household – or family.
- Similarly, God's intent for the local church is that they be the household of God – the family of God.
- Jesus is the Master of the house and we are His household.
- Our family ties are both because birth and through covenant. We are born of the same Father in heaven. We are in a covenant (solemn promise) relationship with each other.
- There is a proper way to conduct ourselves in the household of God.

1 Timothy 3:15

<sup>15</sup>but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- A proper way to conduct ourselves in the family.
- There are boundaries between the natural and spiritual family.

**Today:**

3. Family Culture – Values, Purposes, Dreams

### **Family Culture – Values, Purposes, Dreams**

Every household has a certain culture as defined by its values, purposes and dreams.

At APC we have a well-defined family culture. Our values, purposes and dreams are clear.

**Our Culture:**

1. **Casual, contemporary, creative**

Casual – not steeped in religion, approachable, down to earth

Contemporary – relevant, connecting to today's generation



Creative – innovative, fresh, new ways to present eternal truth

Example of Jesus and Paul.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 <sup>9</sup>For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; <sup>20</sup>and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; <sup>21</sup>to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; <sup>22</sup>to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

1 Corinthians 10:33 <sup>33</sup>just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

## 2. Everyone is a minister

1 Corinthians 12:18 - <sup>18</sup>But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

Every believer has a set place and a set function in the Body of Christ.

The way to please God is simple – stay in the place where He set you and fulfill the function(s) He has appointed for you. Don't wander from "place to place" in the Body and trying to function in ways He has not appointed for you.

To minister simply means to serve. You do whatever is needed to serve people. Maintain a servant heart!

## 3. Word-based, Spirit-led

Acts 20:32 - <sup>32</sup>"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Romans 8:14 - <sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Have a good balance of the Word and the Spirit.

## 4. Spiritual, yet practical

We must be careful not to become "spooky spiritual" that even God cannot use us on the earth.

Be real. Be practical.

Example: Many people get into trouble following what some one prophesied over them. They do not test prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:20,21) and do not wait for two or three witnesses (2 Corinthians 13:1).



## 5. Active, energetic, dynamic

We are high on commitment and red hot zeal for the Lord!

Romans 12:11 - <sup>11</sup>not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

1 Corinthians 15:58 - <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

### Our Values:

Here are things that are important to us as a church:

#### 1. Integrity of character

Good spirit, honesty, truthfulness, teachableness, etc. Has to do with character.

We prefer those who are meek, teachable, able to connect with people, truthful to those who may be very spiritual and gifted – but are full of self, pride, spiritually arrogant, unwilling to listen, etc. We promote and encourage those who have a good spirit and a servant heart. For the others, we just wait and give them time to change!

It is not enough to be right in God's eyes. We must be right in the eyes of man also in the way we conduct ourselves, handle money, etc.

Romans 12:17 - <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

2 Corinthians 8:21 - <sup>21</sup>providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

#### 2. Excellence

1 Corinthians 10:31 - <sup>31</sup>Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

We give God our best – not the left overs!

Continuously raise the standard of what we do – in preaching, worship, etc.

Excellence comes at a price.

Example of king David. 1 Chronicles 21:24 Don't give to God something that does not cost you.

#### 3. Stay on the leading edge of what God is doing

God is on the move as He unfolds His plan for the human race. God has not "parked" yet. So we need to keep in time and in step with God and what He is releasing into the earth.

2 Kings 18:4 - <sup>4</sup>He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.



#### 4. Opportunity for every one

Ephesians 4:11,12 - <sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

APC Cells will be a place where every one can minister and develop their ministry.

#### 5. Unity and cohesiveness

Psalms 133:1-3 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing-- Life forevermore.

Ephesians 4:1-3 <sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

#### 6. Relationships

Proverbs 27:17 - <sup>17</sup>As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

#### Our Purposes:

1. **Glorify and exalt the name of Jesus** – APC is not the work of a man, a denomination or an organization. But it is the work of the Lord, by His Spirit, through His people.  
2 Corinthians 4:5 - <sup>5</sup>For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

**Dear Church Family - Never put your pastor or any spiritual leader on a pedestal. The day you put your pastor on a pedestal – that's the day judgment will begin in this house! Because God said that He will not give His glory to another (Isaiah 42:8).**

We are here to glorify one and one alone – His name is Jesus!

2. **Make an impact** – to be salt and light in the city of Bangalore, a voice to the nation of India and to the nations.  
Matthew 5:13,14 - <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
3. **Equip every believer** – bring every believer to maturity, equip and release them for ministry. At APC every believer is a minister.  
Colossians 1:28,29 - <sup>28</sup>Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

#### Our Dreams:

John 15:8 - <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.



1. Raise up 5 strong churches, each with over 50,000 people in Bangalore, with each church having a powerful impact on all strata of society.
2. Raise up several churches all across this nation – in cities, towns and villages, gathering many thousands into God's Kingdom and discipling them.
3. Go in to other nations – impacting various regions of the world with the Gospel, by raising up churches, Bible colleges and making a difference in the lives of people for the Kingdom of God.