



Our Church, A Family Sunday April 10, 2005

Review of part 1 and part 2 of this series

Part 1

1. The Church As A Family

- A) How the word "house" is used
- B) The house of God - A spiritual house
- C) Jesus - The Master of the house
- D) How does the local church become a family? What is the nature of our relationship?

2. Implications of the local church being a family

- A) A proper way to conduct yourself in the family
- B) Boundaries between the natural and the spiritual

Part 2

3. Family Culture – Values, Purposes, Dreams

Our Culture:

- Casual, contemporary, creative
- Everyone is a minister
- Word-based, Spirit-led
- Spiritual, yet practical
- Active, energetic, dynamic

Our Values:

- Integrity of character
- Excellence
- Stay on the leading edge of what God is doing
- Opportunity for every one
- Unity and cohesiveness
- Relationships

Our Purposes:

- Glorify and exalt the name of Jesus
- Make an impact
- Equip every believer

Our Dreams:

- Raise up 5 strong churches, each with over 50,000 people in Bangalore
- Raise up several churches all across this nation
- Raise up churches in other nations

Part 3

Family Practices

A) Brotherly love

1 Thessalonians 4:9,10

9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.



10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

1 John 3:10-18

Vs16-18

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Love is more than a feeling, although there may be feelings. Love is more than an attitude of the heart, although it begins in the heart. Love is action. It is something you do! To love in deed is to do something for the one you love.

Romans 12:9,10

9 Let love be without dissimulation (without hypocrisy). Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

We must love in truth, i.e. without hypocrisy. Hypocritical love has all the right mannerisms and behaviour – and looks like love - but the heart is not in it.

Proverbs 27:5,6

5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

There is a good balance in true love – a balance between giving, serving, encouraging and also in correcting, disciplining, etc.

James 5:9

Grudge (*murmer*) not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Hebrews 13:1,2

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

We can "increase more and more" – i.e. keep growing in this area.

B) Keeping the unity of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:1-6

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

"Endeavoring" Greek "*spoudazo*" = to use speed, that is, to make effort, be prompt or earnest: - do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.



Make every effort to maintain the unity (oneness, togetherness) which the Holy Spirit brings, by strengthening our ties, our being joint together (the bond) by doing those things that promote peace, (harmony, quietness, rest) amongst us.

We practice keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Mark 3:25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

- Division weakens us.
- Each one may have their own opinions, but when a decision is made, we've all got to learn to flow together by becoming "likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, and one mind".

C) Maintaining the fellowship of the Spirit

Philippians 2:1-5

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

- There is a "fellowship of the Spirit" that we share as God's people. However to maintain the fellowship of the Spirit we must be likeminded, of one accord. No one should do things out of selfish ambition or a desire for vain glory...etc...(vs 3-5)
- When we do things motivated out of selfish ambition or a desire for self-glory we "damage" the fellowship of the Spirit that we are to have as brethren.

This teaching on "Family Practices" will be continued next Sunday.