



Our Church A Family (Part 1) March 06, 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

Will cover 1. & 2. today.

Why this series:

Just because you are married does not mean you have a great marriage! Getting married is just the starting point. A great marriage has to be worked upon and built.

Similarly just because we have a local church, and greet each other as brothers and sisters, and respect spiritually mature elders as fathers and mothers does not mean we have a family. A family has to be worked upon and built.

This series is intended to teach us what it means to be the family of God in a local setting and how to live out the family life we share as the people of God. All of us need to work together on this to make APC a great family.

1. The Church As A Family – A Biblical Truth

A) How the word "house" is used

Referring to a nation:

Matthew 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

Referring to a city:

Matthew 23:37,38



O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

B) The house of God - A spiritual house

Matthew 21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

"house" Greek "*oikos*" = a dwelling, by implication a family

Applies to both the corporate Body of Christ and to the local church.

C) Jesus - The Master of the house

Matthew 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

"master of the house" Greek "*oikodespotes*" = the head of a family: - goodman (of the house), householder.

D) How does the local church become a family ? What is the nature of our relationship ?

All have the same Father

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.



A covenant relationship

1 Corinthians 10:16,17

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

"communion" Greek "*koinonia*" = partnership, distribution, fellowship, participation, intercourse, benefaction

"A covenant community...is a community of God's redeemed people bound together in covenant love, submitted to compassionate authority and rulership....A community where loving correction and instruction produces healthy growth and maturity..." – R. Trudinger

In a covenant relationship we commit ourselves to one another and share our lives as fully as we can in accordance to the boundaries set by God's Word. We make a firm determination to avoid backbiting and mistrust and commit to building loving relationships of trust and forgiveness.

2. Implications of the local church being a family

A) A proper way to conduct yourself in the family

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

God's people need to be taught and trained on how to behave as part of the family of God. This is one of the objectives of this teaching.

To begin with none of us are perfect. When imperfect people get together there will definitely be conflicts, issues, problems, etc. Just because these things surface and have to be dealt with does not mean we are headed in the wrong direction. As long as all of us remain teachable, submissive to God and one another, willing to receive correction and change, we can resolve conflicts and grow together!

If each one shuns discipline, despises God-appointed boundaries, and does whatever they please, the house of God will be a place of chaos, rebellion and confusion!

One other aspect – what if you do not like something at APC, e.g. the worship style, what we teach and preach, our ministries, our emphasis on cell groups, the people, etc. etc. You have a choice to make. Either you learn to like what we are doing – grow up, extend yourself etc. or gracefully leave and find a place where you feel comfortable. The problem is that people who do not like something still stay and they do not move in either direction – either to accept things as they are at APC or go on to another church family. They begin to stagnate. Stagnant water becomes polluted and is not good for any use. Instead it becomes a breeding place for disease. These people, knowingly or unknowingly begin to spread strife, confusion, disillusionment among the brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,



19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

So there is really nothing wrong relocating from APC to another local church if you do not feel comfortable here. In fact you could be a blessing to another church where you are totally comfortable and can give good things to others!

B) Boundaries between the natural and the spiritual

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

We have to walk wisely as we balance and draw a clear line of demarcation between being a spiritual family and each of our natural earthly families.

- For example, some one cannot say, I am your spiritual brother, so I can move into your house and live there.
- Or some one cannot say, I am your sister in the Lord, and therefore I have a spiritual claim to all your natural inheritance!
- Some one cannot claim to be your spiritual father or spiritual mother and therefore dictate how you live your life – whom you marry, what job you work, what you eat, what clothes you wear, etc. etc. They can counsel you and give you advice, but they should not live your life for you.

You are still responsible for your natural earthly life and there is a boundary beyond which others who are related to you through spiritual covenant relationship should not cross.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>