

Sunday July 22, 2007

Topic: Making Our Church A Home

Reason for today's message

Friday June 07, 2007

Our APC Pastoral Team along with the outreach pastors spent these three days in prayer. On Thursday we spent time waiting on the Lord to see what He would say about the places/cities/town where we are ministering. Concerning the church in Bangalore, I saw a vision and sensed the Lord saying that we have to become a "church without walls". The Church in the city has to become a church without walls. The church needs to go into the city and the city should be able to easily come in to the church. Music had an important part to play in this. Right after sharing this word, Ps. Stephen Bennie came and shared that while I was sharing the word, he had a vision of the church in the city being like the church in the book of Acts: Worshipping, Fellowshiping, Giving, Witnessing, etc., meeting in homes all over the city and coming together in stadiums, the praises of God resounding all over the city; the ministers of God from the city jet-setting all over the country establishing people in the Word.

A few weeks back Amy had shared something with me about what was happening in our church and I had a dream that night where the Lord was instructing me to speak on "Making our church a home", specifically dealing with the area of hospitality.

Hence today's message.

Making our church a home

A kind of home where people find it easy to come into
A kind of home where people want to stay

1 Timothy 3:15 The Local church is called the household, family, home, the dwelling place of God.

The local church which is a community of believers who have gathered together for a common purpose - is a family, the family of God.

In a church with growing numbers, it is easy to just attend and be part of the crowd, without connecting and becoming part of the family. Those of us who feel part of the family should make it easy for others to move from just attending to becoming part of the family of God. This is an area where we as a church are lacking significantly.

Romans 12:9-18

1. Hospitality

- Romans 12:13 1 Peter 4:8,9
- Making visitors feel welcome. Know that 40% of visitors make up their mind about a church before they even see the pastor, according to Barna Research. Within two minutes of the beginning of a service visitors have formed an opinion about whether the congregation is friendly. Rule of Ten: Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of them
- Following up with visitors between Sundays
- Sharing with others in the family (Romans 12:13)
- Share in the feelings of other (Romans 12:15)

- Be of the same mind. Be in harmony with one another (BBE). Get along with each other (MSG). (Romans 12:16)
- Do not repay evil for evil. 'Do not hit back. Discover beauty in every one' (MSG). Don't be so sensitive that every little thing people say or do ends up 'hurting' you. (Romans 12:17)
- Live peacefully with one another (Romans 12:18)
- Cell groups is a great way of developing people to people connections and practicing hospitality.

2. Every one doing their part

- A home is not a home if only one member does all the work and the others live in as hotel guests.
- Every one must be active and fervent (zealous) in serving the Lord (Romans 12:11)
- All of us are good at critique other's work and pointing out when some one else fails to do their part well. I think the question we need to ask is 'what part am I playing?' What am I doing to make this church a home?
- Volunteer your time and effort. Don't look to get paid for every effort.
- Every one can volunteer.
- Every task done in the house of God is important.
- What is important to the family, should become important to you. When the family is getting together, you need to be there. Our 'All Night Prayer' is a priority ministry and is for every one to participate. Similarly 'Cell Groups', 'Elevate', 'MEGA', 'EWM', 'Women's Ministry'.

Since the church is a spiritual house, there are some dangers that we must be aware of that hinder us from becoming a home.

3. Avoiding competition

- This is a very dangerous thing among those who are becoming 'spiritual'.
- Sometimes this is a very subtle thing – very difficult to identify.
- A spirit of competition can be very divisive.
- Get rid of the 'air of superiority'. Walk and talk at the level where each person is. Romans 12:16
- In honour prefer one another Romans 12:10
- Do not do anything out of strife. Prefer others before you. Philippians 2:3,4

4. Avoid attention seeking

- Be content working as unto the Lord. Don't keep looking for recognition. Colossians 3:23,24
- Do not draw people to yourself. Point people to Jesus. Make people dependent on Jesus not you.
- John 3:30 John 5:41 John 7:18

5. Avoiding cliques / Avoid being cliquish

- While each of will find a circle of friends we are comfortable with (e.g. cell group), we must not become closed and disconnected from the rest of the family.
- 1 Corinthians 3:3-5, 21 1 Corinthians 4:6



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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>

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