

Designed For God's Family-Fellowship

Monday

"But if I tarry long, that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3: 15

Every believer is called to belong, and not just to believe. Even in the perfect, sinless environment of Eden, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." We were created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God's purposes by ourselves.

The family is the primary "cell group" and the most important unit within society. Between the two institutions, the church and the family, the family was the first to be established. It was established at the very foundation of the world. Even when God stooped down to become man He placed Himself in the environment of a family.

Today's thought:: As gardens are made to grow plants so the family exists to grow human beings.

Tuesday

"Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit." I Corinthians 12:13 (NLT)

Like a spiritual DNA, God's Spirit dwells within every believer. God's Spirit places us into His family. As believers we are one body, the body of Christ, but somehow today's culture of independent individualism has really crippled "the Body of Christ." (It's a fearful thought.) Without a family one is without identity, accountability, or commitment.

You ever wonder why we have "homeless people? Weren't these people somehow part of a family before? Didn't they have friends who could have been of some help?

Today's thought: Are you somebody's Christian or a Christian somebody? Do you belong?

Wednesday

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel" I Corinthians 4: 15

The church in Corinth was known for being one filled with the gifts of the Spirit. Though the gifts of the Spirit flourished, sin also flourished. Church boiled down to programs, cliques and factions. "...one says, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos..." The apostle Paul attributes such superficiality to the lack of a fatherly role in the life of the church.

Today's thought: Does my level of involvement with family members (father, mother, brother(s), sister(s))-local church and friends demonstrate that I love the Lord and am committed to family?

Joseph Generation Devotions

October 10th, 2004

Thursday

Philippians 1:9-11

Pray that:

1. Our love for others will increase I knowledge and judgment.
2. That we be able to differentiate (tell the difference) between things, knowing that which is excellent.
 - ⇒ That my understanding not be blind/darkened.
 - ⇒ Cry out that the Lord deliver you from a reprobate mind.
3. That we be sincere a without offense till the day of Christ.
4. That we be filled with fruits of righteousness (love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) unto the glory and praise of God.

Friday

"Therefore if you bring your gift to the place of worship, and there remember that your brother has something against you: leave your gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5: 23

Jesus' words above paraphrased, "cut the crap...stop the show!"

In a society where folks rather be fiends of animals (dogs, cats, snakes etc.), it is difficult to talk about "Fellowship"!

When the home, the basic place for bonding is characterized by children running off to school and parents rushing off to work; fast foods and microwave lunch and dinner; everyone has his or her own room, television, computer game, cell phone... it is just impossible to experience real bonding or fellowship in the church.

Saturday

**Family
was estab-
lished at the
very founda-
tion of the
world!**

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." Ephesians 1:5-6

Society is so hyped up that a "regular" friendship is rare. You may ask what is a "regular" friendship? A regular friend is one with no strings attached. You are my friend not because:

- ⇒ I play football.
- ⇒ I am handsome or beautiful.
- ⇒ I have many friends or that I am popular

What if I lose these things? Would you still be my friend? Do you want to know the real me? Even when the crowd followed Jesus He indicated to them that the reason they followed him was not because they believed the words He spoke but they followed Him for what they could get...food.

Today's thought: Love me and want me to know me for me. Be real! By the way who are you...really?