

# WELCOME TO THE PLANET:

## Part 3: You Were Formed for God's Family

### Intro

“What on earth am I here for”? Is a primary question, What on earth am I here for, points back to the belief that there is in fact a God, a Creator, a Designer. You don't have to be a growing, mature, strong, Christian to come to church. But this primary question – What on earth am I here for? – that becomes an irrelevant question if you don't believe that there's a God.

So a few weeks ago when I started this series with this quote from this famous atheist.

Bertrand Russell says, “Unless you assume a God the question of life's purpose is meaningless.”

But let's assume for a second, let's make some assumptions. Let's assume that we said God did create this earth and if He did there must be purpose behind His creation because you don't create stuff with no purpose. So there must be purpose behind His creation. Therefore there must be purpose behind my life and your life because we're part of God's creation. Therefore if that's true then I must either pursue the purpose or ignore it. In that first week we just kind of set up the whole series: here's what I'm going to talk about the next five weeks.

Last week we talked about worship which is giving God our attention, it's giving God our focus. Why do we worship? Because it changes us personally and it changes our heart. And then he said how do you worship? You worship by giving God your love, your praise and your devotion.

That was the first purpose.

Today we will talk about the second purpose of life that the Bible teaches. You were formed for God's family. We were formed for God's family. Relationships are a big deal. Almost every problem that I've ever talked about with high school students points back to a relational problem. Either a problem with their parents, a problem with a friend, a problem with a boyfriend/girlfriend. Most problems in life are relational problems. Almost every problem you can think of is a relational problem.

Why? Because how we're wired and created for relationships. As a matter of fact the action steps for this message are relational action steps.

It starts with the mind. Walk through this with me and I'll show you how you and I were formed for God's family.

### Recognize God's relational DESIGN

Imagine God in all His creation hardwired your body to desire relationships. Relationships are part of how God designed us. You and I work best when we have a relationship with God that's working and then we have a relationship with others – in that order. Some of you know the Bible teaches

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love others as well.”

We are designed for that.

You can live your life outside or inside God's design for you. God designed you to be in relationships.

James 1:18

*Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

This is in reference to God. He says, Hey! It was a happy day for God! Another translation the New Living Translation it says “We became His choice possession.” In God's design of us in designing us to be relational, it was a happy day when He created us. We were His choice possession.

Ephesians 1:5

*he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

When God designed you and me it brought Him great joy. God is all about relationships. And when we have a relationship to Him and right relationships with one another it makes Him happy. That's where joy came from.

You want to go through life with other people. You want to go through life with friends. Sometimes as you go through life bad things are going to happen. When bad things happen you don't want to be alone. The reason you don't want to be alone is because of this theological truth. God created you and I to be in relationship. That's the first step: You've got to recognize God's relational design.

## **Respond to God's desire for you to move from CREATION to CHILD**

There are six billion people on the earth. Those six billion people are God's creation. The Bible teaches that when you open your life to God, you move from creation of God to child of God. That is God's design in creating us. He wants us to be in relationship with Him.

The Bible teaches that outside of Christ, outside of a relationship with God, you are a creation of God. But once you enter into a personal relationship with Him. You move from creation to child of God. You were formed to be a part of God's family.

Galatians 4:7

*So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

The Bible says that everything that's available to God is available to His children. It doesn't say some things. It says everything.

1 Peter 1:4

*to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*

A lot of people think God's this killjoy in heaven just wanting to wipe you out. But you don't understand that the Bible teaches that God loves you so much. He loves you as His children. He wants to give you the very best. He wants you to live life to its fullest.

The reason some of us in here have a hard time understanding that is because we look at the type of love we get from other people. And the type of love we get from other people is conditional love. The type of love you see sometimes in relationships is conditional – "I'll love you if you do this... I'll stay with you if you do this."

That "if" is a condition. You've watched some of your parents mess up their relationship and get divorced. Sometimes it's hard for us to understand how could God want the best for us when other people around don't want the best for us.

The second purpose of life is you were formed for His family but first of all you've got to understand that we were created by God to be in relationships. But not just any relationship. We then respond to God's desire. If you're sitting here today and you are outside of God's family, outside of Christianity looking in, you don't have a relationship with God, you know what God's desire is for you? To be in relationship with Him. God doesn't want you outside of His family. He wants you to move from creation to child. Then when you do...

## Reveal your spiritual identity change through BAPTISM

Baptism shouts to the world: "I am a Christian!" Baptism says, "I moved from creation of God to child of God!" Baptism freaks some of you out because you wonder how long will they hold me underwater? How do I do it? Do I have to wear a swimsuit? It's that fear stuff.

Here's what the Bible teaches is baptism. Baptism is a symbol that you're in God's family. It is a symbol that says, I am a Christian.

### Matthew 28:19

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

### Acts 18:8b

*And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized*

What is baptism? Baptism is a sign that says I'm part of the family.

What does wedding ring symbolize? It symbolizes that someone is married. Does the ring make them married? It's just a symbol. It's a symbol of commitment. That's what baptism is. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment. It's a point in your spiritual journey where you say, I'm tired of being undercover. I'm tired of nobody knowing. I'm going to take that step and be baptized which is a symbol of being a part of God's family.

You reveal your spiritual identity change through baptism. I was a creation of God. Now I'm a child of God. Now I'm going to show it to my small group, my family, a lot of people.

## Risk and connect with other "FAMILY MEMBERS" (Christians)

When it says "You were formed for God's family" that's what the Bible teaches. God's family are other Christians. When you walk in this room and you sit by other Christians, they are part of God's family.

Jesus was teaching one time and someone says, "Your mom's outside waiting for you, and your brother." You've had this happen to you before. Jesus said this, "Then He pointed to His disciples and said, 'These are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!'"

He was creating this whole new definition of what it means to be family. Just imagine these levels like you're going down steps.

### **Level 1: God's CHURCH (universal/Christians everywhere)**

These are Christians everywhere. Not just here in Texas, not just in North America, but all over the world.

## **Level 2: LOCAL church (i.e. FBC Sanger)**

Here's what you need to understand about the local church. Each of you have gifts that you can offer to this church. You have skills and abilities and dreams and desires and things that are going on in your life that you can offer to this church, the local church, if you call this your church home.

Some of you call this your church home. You come and you sit. You sit in the local church. I'm ok with that. I'll take that. I'll start there. But at some point you want to get involved in the local church. You want to see that God has given you something to offer more than just coming and sitting and getting the message. God looks in your heart and says, "You have gifts. I want to use you."

### Romans 12:4-6a

*4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:*

There are other scriptures that talk about, some of you are the head, some of you are the feet, some of you are the eyes. The eye cannot operate outside of the body. The eye has to be a part of the body. So it is with our different gifts. Our gifts fit together to form one body.

Each one of these levels, like I said, is like going downstairs. It's taking a step deeper. It maybe sometimes and some places it may be a step darker and more scary. Level one is God's church. Level two is the local church.

## **Level 3: SMALL group**

With every one of these levels there are some assumed risks. There are some fears. Maybe they will ask you about something personal, maybe they will will make you talk and answer questions. For some people these are legitimate fears.

But I also tell you this, I have the title here at FBC Sanger "Pastor to Students" but I can't pastor every student. There's no way that you can be fully cared for and helped and disciplined and coached and encouraged in your spiritual journey unless you're part of a small group.

I can come give a message and try my very best to help you spiritually and teach you the Bible every week. But when you're in a small group now all of a sudden you're connected with other people. In some ways it's almost symbolic saying, I want to be connected to other people who are like-minded and we're trying to live God's way together. As a matter of fact, did you know that the early Christians, that's what they did.

### Acts 2:44

*And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*

In the Bible it says they met in the temple courts – like the local church crowd – and then they met house to house – small group. That's really what we're trying to do, saying, we want to push you to a deeper level where you will connect with some other Christians.

#### **Level 4: IRON sharpens IRON (real close with at least 1 adult/peer)**

This may take your whole life to get here. This is connecting with that one other person that is either an adult or a peer in your life that you rub shoulders with, that you do life together. This is that person, when they sharpen a blade what do they do? They rub it against each other. The iron is sharpening the iron. This is that person in your life that is making you stronger and deeper and more fruitful as a Christian because you're doing life together.

#### Proverbs 27:17

*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

All of these levels require me to LOVE. Four levels. What level are you at? Might you be challenged to take a step to a deeper level? No matter what level you're at all of these levels require me to love. The purpose we're talking about today, what on earth am I here for, you are on earth to be formed into God's family. To be moved from creation to child, to be put with a group of people where you learn to love them.

#### 1 John 3:18

*Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

#### John 13:35

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Notice it says your love will prove. It doesn't say your haircut – shave your head this way and it will prove you're my disciple. It doesn't say wear a Christian T-shirt. Have a little fish on it and people will go, "You're a follower of Jesus aren't you?" He could have said anything. But He says, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." All of those levels no matter where you are require you to love one another. That's what the church is. You are formed for God's family. God's family is the church.

### **The biblical term for connecting with other Christians is FELLOWSHIP**

A Christian without a church is an orphan. If you are a Christian you need to be a part of a local body. Within that local body, that Level 3 is a small group. Level 4 is finding a person to go through life – iron sharpening iron.

We are wired to go through life together.

## Discussion Questions:

- What evidence have you seen that supports the idea that God created us to have relationships with other people?
- Why do you think God would create people to need each other?
- Does God consider every person His child?
- What is the difference from being a part of creation and a child of God?
- Thinking about your own family, should your parents treat you different than other children? Why or why not?
- How does God treat his children differently?
- Why would God create us to be in relationship with Him but still give us the choice to deny Him?
- In your own words, what is the purpose of baptism?
- Why is it important for Christians to be baptized?
- How can it be a risk to connect with other Christians?
- What are some benefits of being connected to Christians all over the world?
- In your own words, can someone be a Christian and not be a part of a local church?
- Why is it important to be involved in a local church family?
- Based on today's lesson, why do you think small groups are important to the youth ministry?
- What do you think it looks like to have an "iron sharpens iron" relationship with another person?
- Thinking about the levels of connecting to God's family, why is it important to move into the next level of connection?
  - (1: The Universal Church, 2: The local church, 3: small groups, 4: Iron sharpens iron)