



Purpose: Formed for God's Family – September 10, 2017  
Pastor Shannon Chapman

*Today we continue our journey to understand the purpose of life. We are praying that as we continue this journey we all commit to a holy pursuit of God and His purposes for us.*

**Purpose 1 – Worship, you were planned for God's pleasure**

## **Purpose 2: Community**

*We were created in life with the purpose of being a part of God's family.*

*Ephesians 1:5, God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

*1 Peter 2:17, Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

## **4 Levels of Community**

### **1. Choosing to Belong**

God wants you to identify with a church family.

*1 Timothy 3:14-15, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

God desires for you to believe and belong.

*Ephesians 2:19, You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*

Through Christ we are members of ONE body.

*Galatians 3:28, There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

A great way to start your journey of belonging is by attending our next membership class on October 29 or attending Kickstart next Sunday at 9:15. [signup.thecitychurch.cc](http://signup.thecitychurch.cc)

## 2. Learning to **Share**

The Christian life is not a solo journey; it's meant to be shared with others.

Friendship requires meeting and sharing together.

*Acts 2:42-47, They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

The best way to foster this type of relationship is in small groups.

*Hebrews 10:25, let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

## 3. Making a **Contribution**

God designed us to make a difference with our lives.

*I Corinthians 3:9, For we are co-workers in God's service...*

Some plant...Some water...in the end God gives the growth.

The health and growth of the church depends on this level of community.

*Ephesians 4:16, He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

## 4. Loving like **Family**

Romans 12:10, Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

This requires deep devotion and commitment to your spiritual family.

There has to be a willingness to make a sacrifice for each other.

*John 13:15, By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

This is proof of our commitment!

### **Conclusion**

God would like to invite you into His family by receiving Jesus as the leader of your life. LET'S BE FAMILY!