

Welcome to Church

9/6/2026

1 Peter 2:9-10 – 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – 19... You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price.

The Rich Blessings of Church Family

- John 13:34-35 – 34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
- Exodus 15:27 – Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.
- Acts 2:42-47 – 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
 - The word “together” appears 3 times in these 6 verses!
 - The believers “were together” (vs. 44), “continued to meet together” in the Temple (vs. 46), and “ate together” in their homes (vs. 46)
 - “together” = *homothumadon* = of one mind, of one heart... that we’re not just physically together, but we’re a band of brothers who have each other’s backs
 - “together” = *epi* = a preposition that means a lot of different things depending on context, but implies a close connection
 - Epidermis = the outer layer of skin that is covering the dermis (the inner layer)
 - Epitaph = an inscription placed upon a tomb (taphos), carved into the stone
 - Epilogue = a portion of a work that comes after the main body of writing (logos) and is a part of it

You’ll Get What You Put Into It

- Luke 6:38 – ...with the measure you use, it will be measured to you

Epidemic of Loneliness

- Psychologists say that a sense of Belonging is a foundational human need (Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs)
- More people than ever report that they are lonely
 - On average 21% of US adults report that they are either “frequently” or “always” lonely
 - Almost 1 in every 4 adults 18-29 years old (24%)
 - Almost 1 in every 3 adults 30-44 years old (29%)
- Psalm 68:6 – God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing...