## We Are Made for God's Family

## What comes to your mind when you hear the word church?

New Testament: Ekklesia; _			
Roman: Basliica;German: Kirche;	· 	carrying the tro of the world he	MATTHEW 16:18  s a movement dedicated to  uth of Jesus Christ to every corner ad become an insider focused, tual institution that bore little o its origins.
Three Descriptions of the Ekklesia in Ephesians			
Real Fellowship Begins with Being		into	·
For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."  - EPHESIANS 1: 4-5 (NIV)			
in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us."	And God placed all thin appointed him to be he for the church, which is	ead over everything	since you are His child, God has also made you an heir."  ~ GAL. 4:7B (NIV)

# What If There are Problems in The Family: Church Hurt

#### To Church Leaders:

Make sure your words and actions bring grace and healing not shame and harm.

#### To Those Experiencing Hurt:

- 1. Seek First to Understand
  - " Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." ~ Colossians 3:13 (NLT)
- 2. Seek Help and Counseling If Needed

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3. Don't Let the sins of another Christian keep you from Jesus and His family.

and

EPHESIANS 2: TEMPLE

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."

~ EPHESIANS 2:14 (N/V)

- For through him we both (jews and gentiles) have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." ~ EPHESIANS 2:18-19 (N/V)
- In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." ~ EPHESIANS 2:21-22 (N/V)

### Real Fellowship Flourishes When Every Part

EPHESIANS 4: BODY

- So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
  - 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

~ EPHESIANS 4:11-16 (N/V)

# Discussion Questions

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- **1** When you think of the word church what is the first thing that comes to your mind? What memories, if any, do you have about *church from your childhood?*
- 2 If your true wealth was measured by your relationships how wealthy would you be?
- **3** What are some of the barriers that keep us from loving and caring for other believers?
- **4 -** In Ephesians, Paul uses three metaphors that describe the church (Family, Temple, Body). What is significant about each one of those images?
- **5** This week's message brought up the topic of Church Hurt. What advice would you give to a friend who feels they have been hurt by the church or other Christians?
- **6** Is there a change in your schedule, or priorities, that would give you more time to build healthy relationships?

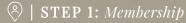


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