

Heart for the House Part 2

Everyone Matters Here

Psalm 92:13 (NKJV)

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

- God wants your family, relationships, business, the seasons of your life to flourish.
- It brings our Heavenly Father glory and great pleasure to give us the Kingdom (Luke 12:32)
- FLOURISH: To thrive; to grow luxuriantly; to increase and enlarge, healthy, prosperous, to abound. This is what happens when you are planted!
- PLANTED: better understood as “placed” like a plant strategically added to a garden, each of have been placed in this place by the Master Planter. *“I will build My Church” (Matt 16:18)*

The local church isn't just where we go, it's where He places me.

3 Decisions that Have Shaped Our Lives the Most (Me and Amy)

We said “yes” to Jesus

We said “yes” to each other. (I loved her, she liked me.)

We said “yes” to the local church. (Planted, Connected, and Invested)

Our Prayer for you:

Psalm 69:9 (TPT)

My love for you has my heart on fire! My passion for your house consumes me! Nothing will turn me away!

What is God's heart for this house and how do I align my heart with His?

Core Value: WE BELIEVE EVERYONE MATTERS HERE (We are a multigenerational and diverse church)

- A church that looks like our community. A church that looks like Heaven. A church that looks outside.
- **A Place to Belong**

Ephesians 2:19-22 (Message)

That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all - irrespective of how we got here - in what he is building.

- Jesus is our safe place, but the local church is His expression of this in the Earth...for Everyone!!

Psalm 68:5-6 (NLT)

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows— this is God, whose dwelling is holy.

⁶ God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy...

It's in the local church where God places me in family

God has uniquely designed the local church to be the place where we find belonging. We are created to know and be known.

To Me: Belonging begins with being known. This is a big step of faith. We must trust God and trust where He's placed us.

- Exhale, it's safe to land here. (We only circle so long, we either land or crash)
- A place to be celebrated, not tolerated
- A place of transparency, not secrecy. "The air is clear."
- No Tolerance Zone for Gossip "We don't do that here."

Through Me: Everyone needs a place to belong. You matter here but consider the many that are "wandering exiles"

- A church that looks outside means the vision continues with me, not ends with me.
- In our families, community, and world are many who don't know they belong...that they matter.
- Am I stuck trying to matter instead of creating room for others to know their value?
- People need to belong before they will believe.

- **A Place to Believe**

Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

⁷ Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. ⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers^[a] of this world, rather than from Christ

God places me in the local church to grow and to help others grow.

To Me: God plants (places) us to grow us, not so we can stay the same.

- Roots are designed to stretch and extend but notice Paul says, "Let your roots..."
- Going to the house is doesn't mean your growing in the house. "I belong here" but now, "I will grow here."
- "The truth you were taught" speaks of the pastor/teacher gift within the local church.

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

- “Watch over” means covering and protection. Every Christian should have this.
- People will either grow or go. God’s plan is for us to grow AND go. (The significance of a church isn’t measured by how many it gathers; but by how many it sends.)
- “Everyone matters here” doesn’t mean that we settle, get comfortable, or compromise. It means we give ourselves completely to being transformed into His image. (Culture says, “You don’t think I matter if you disagree with me or challenge me.) Notice Paul says we need roots so that we are not deceived or led astray.
- Almost every dysfunction we have boils down to an authority issue. Don’t think you have any? Get married. Join a church. Get ready to grow!
- When the shoe fits, we outgrow it. We don’t whine that the foot is simply doing what God designed it to do. GROW! (When plants do this, it’s called root bound) It’s not the soils fault, it’s the plants decision to not let the roots grow.

Through Me:

- Everyone matters here, not I matter here.
- We not only find those to believe for us, but we begin to believe for/with others. What I’m part of is more important than my part.
- Amy described the tree that’s planted can provide shade for others.
- Disciples make disciples. Who am I helping, serving, growing, adding value to?

Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Jesus is the author of Wholeness (Peace) but it’s the result (since) of being in the Body (local church)
- Here’s that ‘let’ word again. We got to let the Word work. How? By teaching and admonishing each other. Paul is describing the healthy culture of a church. One where everyone matters!
- **Teach:** instruct, help to reach potential **Admonish:** Urge, warn, advise
- This means being the kind of person that stirs people’s faith. Just being around you lifts their perspective and raises their level of expectation.