

8-25-2012, COTR Texarkana

Title: Live Life Together, pt-2

Purpose: Provoke people to live life together with other believers in unity and with purpose.

Spiritual Truth: God wants us to live life together in unity and with purpose.

Text: Heb 10:24-25

Topic: Reputation, FaceBook, Serving, Local Church

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I. Introduction

A. Review

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NCV) [Living life together was the norm for NT believers]
²⁴Let us think about **each other** and help **each other** to show love and do good deeds. ²⁵**You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other.** Do this even **more** as you see the day coming.
2. 2 weeks ago my message was called “Live Life Together”.
3. Listen to messages @ChurchOnTheRock.org or on your iphone or Android.
4. We learned that God wants us connected to other believers. Satan wants to isolate us.
5. We’re asked a basic question: why do we go to church? Is it just for a sermon and a song or is there more? There is more. Church is a place to connect with like minded believers who are serving the Lord and live life together.
6. Fall “Ministry Guide” lists opportunities for you to connect with friends and serve the Lord. Join the Church on The Rock Texarkana FaceBook page today!!!

B. Today I will continue talking about “Living Life Together” in a local church family. I’m going to explore the church “friends” on Paul the Apostle’s FaceBook page.

1. It was the earliest version of FB in Romans 16. Paul had friends he “liked” and a few he “unfriended”. Paul will show us what qualities he wants us to imitate?

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D. Purpose: Provoke people to live life together with other believers in unity and with purpose.

E. Spiritual Truth: God wants us to live life together in unity and with purpose.

II. Paul’s FaceBook Page friends...who’s who in the church at Rome.

1. FaceBook video: Who has a FB page? Who has over 500/ 1000 friends on your FB page? Prize, candy bar, for the winner.

B. Romans 16 (NIV) ¹I commend to you our sister *Phoebe*, **a servant of the church** in Cenchrea. ²...for she has been **a great help** to many people, including me.

1. Phoebe delivered Paul’s letter to the church in Rome. She’s called a servant/ deaconess and Paul posted on her wall that she was a great help to many people.
2. 7 people had a reputation of serving/ helping/ working hard on Paul’s FB page.
3. Followers of Christ are called servants of God in the Bible.
 - a. Ro. 1:1 (ESV) Paul, **a servant of Christ Jesus**, called to be an apostle...
 - b. Def. servant: slave; Grk “doulos” bondservant, one bound to serve another. As Christians, serving God is seen as a privilege and choice not punishment; people doing something with their life for Jesus.
 - c. Paul, Timothy, Peter, James, Jude, Phoebe and Jesus are called servants.

- C. **Verse 3** Greet *Priscilla and Aquila*, my **fellow workers** in Christ Jesus. They **risked their lives** for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.⁵ Greet also **the church that meets at their house**.
1. They led a Life Group in their home.
 2. Have you taken a big risk or made a big sacrifice for Christ.
 3. They took a big risk/ willing to sacrifice for Jesus. Are we?
- D. **Verse 5** Greet my **dear friend Epenetus**, who was the first convert to Christ in...Asia.
1. Everybody needs friends who share our values. Church is the place to find them.
 2. This is so important at COTR we made it a part of our mission statement. GFMW
- E. **Verse 6** Greet *Mary*, who **worked very hard** for you.
1. Christianity is more than believing; it's following/serving Jesus, i.e. doing what He has called us to do. It's doing something with our life for Jesus.
 2. John 12:26 (NIV) **Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.**
 3. On FB you can 'like' Jesus; in real life we take up our cross and follow Him, eg. Mary Block 100 people 100 degrees outreach; Marty Garren in nursery...
- F. **Verse 7** Greet *Andronicus and Junias*, my relatives who have been **in prison with me...**
1. They were serious enough about Jesus to go to jail for him. Are we?
- G. **Verse 9** Greet *Urbanus*, our **fellow worker** in Christ, and my **dear friend Stachys**.
- H. **Verse 10** Greet *Apelles*, **tested and approved** in Christ...
1. Anybody can believe in Jesus but not everybody is still standing after adversity...Ami and Kevin McCartney.
- I. **Verse 11** Greet *Herodion*, my relative. Greet those in the household of *Narcissus* who are in the Lord.
1. They were Christians but apparently there was nothing good to say about the way they lived the Christian life.
- J. **Verse 12** Greet *Tryphena and Tryphosa*, those women who **work hard** in the Lord. Greet my **dear friend Persis**, another woman who has **worked very hard** in the Lord.
1. Serving the Lord, ministering to people can be hard work but God will reward us.
 2. Matthew 25:21 (NIV) [Jesus teaches faithful service to God will be rewarded]
²¹ **... 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.**
- K. **Verse 13** Greet *Rufus*, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a **mother to me...**
1. Paul was a grown but still needed a mom. Not all ministry is done in the church building or behind a pulpit.
 2. A parents greatest spiritual legacy is the spiritual life of their children
 3. 2 Timothy 1:5 (NLT) I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your **grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice**. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.
 4. You can be a spiritual mom/dad to people. Some guys told Pastor Joe you've been like a dad to me. Opportunity 67 adults to work with children in KidZone.

III. Paul "unfriended" people who were causing division in the church

- A. **Verse 17**...watch out for those who cause **divisions** and put **obstacles** in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. **Keep away from them.**¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.¹⁹ ...I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush **Satan** under your feet...
1. Paul says those who are divisive are evil and somehow used by satan.

2. Why would Paul “unfriend” people who caused division in the church? Because they were being used by satan to undermine unity. If unity was broken their spiritual life would be negatively affected and blessings would stop.
3. Division is satan’s tool to destroy churches because “a house divided will fall”.
4. Ephesians 4:3 (NIV) **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit...**
5. Don’t be someone who Paul said to “unfriend” in church. Choose

B. Before you “Unfriend or Hide” somebody try to reconcile with them 1st.

1. The most common response to conflict or offense is to quit, get offended, gossip or take on another person’s offense. Jesus has a better way.
2. Matthew 5:23-24 (NCV) **“So when you offer your gift to God at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,”²⁴ leave your gift there at the altar. Go and make peace with that person, and then come and offer your gift.**
3. Matthew 18:15 (NLT) **“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.**
 - a. Jesus said when conflict arises, go to the person and try to reconcile.
 - b. Let’s not “unfriend” each other; go and work it out so satan won’t win.

IV. Conclusion

A. Proverbs 22:1 (NLT) Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.

1. Most people on Paul’s FB page had a good reputation with people but more importantly they had a good reputation with God.
2. If Paul was the administrator of the COTR FB page what would he say about you? Would he describe you as a hard worker, a mother to kids, willing to sacrifice and serve or someone that was content with a sermon and a song?
3. More importantly, what kind of reputation does God want you to have as a member of the body of Christ?

V. Response

A. Decide today to get connected in a local church. If God led you to COTR then come to the Connect class this Wednesday; check out the Ministry Guide and find a place to get involved/serve start being a friend and you’ll have friends. If you don’t know what to do next ; stop by the Connect Room. Act on what you heard today.

B. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Prayer and Souls