

Encounter Church
Sunday June 02, 2024

Lessons From the Garden The Invincible Family, the Power of Unity

Invincible- incapable of being conquered, overcome, or subdued

Introduction: We're revisiting this series about lessons we can learn from the Garden of Eden

Today we're talking about "The Invincible Family, the Power of Unity"

Genesis 1:26- "Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

Who is "us" and "our"?

We know God was there. From Genesis 1:2 the Bible says the Holy Spirit was there. From John 1 we learn that Jesus was there.

The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit working together to create the world and male and female.

But before the Female was created, God created the Male named Adam.

Genesis 1:18- "Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

God was telling Adam "Your relationship with me is not enough." God considered Adam incomplete without Eve.

WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN FROM THESE SCRIPTURES?

I. God Values Community

God has called each one of us to enjoy a personal relationship with Him and in fact He longs for that.

But beyond that He calls US to be involved in community. It's NOT GODD for man to be alone.

God desires each of us to be CONNECTED in COMMUNITY!

Genesis 12:2- “I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.”

AFTER THE DAY OF PENTECOST WHEN 3000 PEOPLE SURRENDER THEIR LIVES TO JESUS CHRIST

Acts 2:42-47- “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

These New Believers formed an authentic Christian Community!

WHY? Because God values COMMUNITY!

II. God Values Unity

God said “Let Us” make man in our image.”

Genesis 2:24- “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”

GOD VALUES UNITY

John 17:20-21- “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”

Psalm 133:1- “How truly wonderful and delightful to see brothers and sisters living together in sweet unity!

FOUR ENEMIES OF UNITY

a. Gossip

Proverbs 16:28- “A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.”

b. Complaining

James 5:9- “Since each of you are part of God’s family never complain or grumble about each other so that judgment will not come on you, for the true Judge is near and very ready to appear!”

c. Selfishness

James 3:16- “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder [unrest, rebellion] and every evil thing and morally degrading practice.”

d. Division

1 Corinthians 1:10- “I urge you, my brothers and sisters, for the sake of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree to live in unity with one another and put to rest any division that attempts to tear you apart. Be restored as one united body living in perfect harmony. Form a consistent choreography among yourselves, having a common perspective with shared values.”

FOUR FRIENDS OF UNITY

a. Encouragement

b. Thankfulness

c. Humility- Thinking of yourself less, not thinking less of yourself. To be self-sacrificing.

d. Order

GOD VALUES COMMUNITY. GOD VALUES UNITY

III. God Values His Purposes

God values a community that is in unity about His purposes!

THREE PURPOSES OF GOD

Matthew 22:37-39- “Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

a. Love God Passionately

WITH ALL!!!

b. Love one another Deeply

Romans 12:10- “Be devoted to tenderly loving your fellow believers as members of one family. Try to outdo yourselves in respect and honor of one another.”

c. Love the World Sacrificially

John 3:16- “For God so loved the world He gave.....”

Mark 16:15- “And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

“If you think the church is too big then your love for people is too small.”

GOD’S PURPOSES:

1. Love God Passionately
2. Love One Another Deeply
3. Love the World Sacrificially

CONCLUSION: God values a Community that is In Unity about His Purposes.

And when we are a Community that is in Unity about His purposes we are an INVINCIBLE FAMILY!!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?