

WHY YOU NEED A CHURCH FAMILY

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life
Rick Warren

FIVE BENEFITS OF A CHURCH FAMILY

1. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ MY LIFE AROUND GOD

You were planned for God's pleasure.

"His love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center." 2 Corinthians 5:14 (MSG)

"It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

"You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week is holy because it belongs to me. No matter where you live, you must rest on the Sabbath and come together for worship." Leviticus 23:3 (CEV)

"They worshipped together regularly at the Temple each day." Acts 2:46 (TLB)

"We celebrate as we worship you." Psalm 68:4 (CEV)

2. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

You were formed for God's family.

"Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other." Romans 12:5 (GW)

"The Body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much." Romans 12:5 (MSG)

"The person who loves God must also love other believers." 1 John 4:21 (GW)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

"Be devoted to each other like a loving family." Romans 12:10 (GW)

"You are members of God's very own family . . . and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

HOW CAN I JOIN THIS CHURCH FAMILY?

1. CHOOSE TO BELONG! DISCOVERING MEMBERSHIP

"First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will, they gave themselves to us as well." 2 Corinthians 8:5 (GNT)

2. SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT BY BAPTISM

"This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized. Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body." 1 Corinthians 12:13 (MSG)

"That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus." Romans 6:3 (MSG)

"Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (TLB)

3. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ SPIRITUAL MATURITY

You were created to become like Christ.

"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

"Their purpose is to prepare God's people to serve and to build up the body of Christ . . . until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard." Ephesians 4:12-13 (GW)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

"God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything." Ephesians 4:15 (MSG)

"Don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others." 2 Peter 1:5 (MSG)

"Those who believed . . . were baptized and added to the church . . . All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship. . . 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." Acts 2:41-46 (NLT)

TO GROW I NEED . . .

Large group worship: at the "Temple courts"

Small group fellowship: in a home! (Acts 5:42)

"When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing." James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ SOMETHING BACK

You were shaped to serve God.

“God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.” Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)

“We are partners working together for God, and you are God’s field.”
1 Corinthians 3:9 (GNT)

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”
Ecclesiastes 4:9 (GNT)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY _____

“Fully carry out the ministry God has given you.” 2 Timothy 4:5 (NLT)

Discovering My Ministry

“He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers.” Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

“Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (GNT)

5. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ GOD’S MESSAGE

You were made for a mission.

“Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him. . . . He gave us this message of peace. So we have been sent to speak for Christ.”
2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NCV)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY _____

“You are . . . God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.” 1 Peter 2:9 (MSG)

“Live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ . . . standing strong with one purpose as you work together as one for the faith of the Good News.”
Philippians 1:27 (NCV)

Discovering My Mission

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is . . . changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.” Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Jesus: *“I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times.”* Mark 10:29-30 (NLT)

A Great Commitment
to the Great Commandment
and the Great Commission
will produce Great Christians
and a Great Church

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“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.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

Next Steps

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