

Why You Need a Church Family

God's Vision for the Rest of Your Life – Message 4

FIVE BENEFITS OF A CHURCH FAMILY

1. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ MY LIFE AROUND GOD.

“You were planned for God’s pleasure.”

“Christ’s love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center...”

2 Cor. 5:14 (Mes)

“It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”

Phil. 4:6-7 (Mes)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS: _____

“You have six days to 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 and come together for worship.”

Lev. 23:3 (CEV)

“They worshipped together regularly at the Temple courts...”

Acts 2:46a (LB)

“We celebrate as we worship You.”

Ps. 68:4b (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.”

Rom. 12:5b (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.”

Rom. 12:5 (Mes)

“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.”

Rom. 12:10 (GW)

“You are members of God’s very own family... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

Eph. 2:19 (LB)

HOW CAN I JOIN THIS CHURCH FAMILY?

1. Choose to belong! CLASS 101: Discovering Membership

“First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will, they gave themselves to us as well.”

2 Cor. 8:5 (TEV)

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 Cor. 12:13 (Mes)

“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.”

Rom. 6:3 (Mes)

“Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”

John 13:35 (LB)

3. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

“You were created to become like Christ.”

“Christ’s Body is fitted 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.”

Eph.. 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, and measure up to Christ, who is the standard.”

Eph. 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.”

Eph. 4:15a (Mes)

“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 (Mes)

HOW CAN I GROW?

- **CLASS 201: Discovering Spiritual Maturity**
- **Foundations, Word, Journey, or Men’s Bible Studies**
- **JOIN A SMALL GROUP!**

“Those who believed... were baptized and added to the church... They joined with the other believers and committed themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship... They worshipped together regularly at the Temple courts AND met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared their meals with great joy.”

Acts 2:41-42, 46 (NLT/LB)

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 strong in character and ready for anything.”

James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ SOMETHING BACK.

“You were shaped to serve God.”

“God has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.”

Eph. 2:10 (LB)

“We work together as partners who belong to God.”

1 Cor. 3:9a (NLT)

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”

Eccl. 4:9 (TEV)

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS MY _____

“Complete the ministry God has given you.”

2 Tim. 4:5b (NLT)

CLASS 301: Discovering My Ministry

“God will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you’ve shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians.”

Heb. 6:10 (NLT)

“Keep busy in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless.”

1 Cor. 15:58 (TEV)

5. A CHURCH HELPS ME _____ GOD’S MESSAGE.

“You were made for a mission.”

“Through Christ, God made peace between us and Himself, and then 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 Cor. 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 (Mes)

“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.”

Phil. 1:27 (NCV)

CLASS 401: Discovering My Mission

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth about God’s great kindness to sinners.”

Col. 1:6 (NLT)

Jesus: "I assure you that everyone who has sacrificed anything for My sake and for the Good News, will receive in return, a hundred times over..."

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...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matt: 22:36-40

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, BAPTIZING THEM in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and TEACHING THEM TO DO everything I have commanded you."

Matt. 28:19-20

SADDLEBACK'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family develop them to Christlike maturity, and equip them for their ministry in the church and their life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name.