

WHY YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED A CHURCH FAMILY

How the Church Meets Your Deepest Needs – Rick Warren
Parts 1-2

WHAT IS A CHURCH?
Not a building! Not an institution!

A church is **NOT** a *place* I go to, nor an *event* I attend

IT IS A _____

“Those who BELIEVED . . . were BAPTIZED and ADDED to the church . . . They JOINED with the other believers and COMMITTED THEMSELVES to the apostles’ teaching, and to the fellowship . . . They worshiped together regularly at the Temple courts and met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared meals with great joy and thankfulness.” Acts 2:41-42, 46 (NLT/TLB)

DEF: “A CHURCH is a group of baptized believers who’ve joined together in a commitment to help each other fulfill God’s five purposes for their lives.”

WHY IS THE CHURCH THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP ON EARTH?

1. THE CHURCH IS _____

“God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now MEMBERS of GOD’S OWN FAMILY.” 1 Peter 1:3

“That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:15 (NCV)

2. THE CHURCH IS _____

“Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us.” Ephesians 1:4 (TLB)

“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.”
Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

3. THE CHURCH IS _____

“God’s intent was that now, THROUGH THE CHURCH, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to all the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Ephesians 3:10-11

“Through Christians like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!”
Ephesians 3:10 (The Message)

4. **JESUS** _____
“Christ loved the church and gave himself for it . . . He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be pure and without fault.” Ephesians 5:25, 27 (NCV)

5. **ONLY THE CHURCH** _____
“Glory will belong to God in his church and in Christ Jesus for all time and eternity!” Ephesians 3:21 (GW)

“We will be with the Lord together forever!” 1 Thessalonians 4:17

6. **ONLY THE CHURCH** _____
Jesus: “I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it!”
Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

7. **ONLY THE CHURCH** _____
“By his mighty power at work within us, God is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope!” Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

8. **BELONGING TO GOD’S CHURCH IS** _____
“God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God’s own family.” 1 Peter 1:3

“Don’t you realize that ALL OF YOU TOGETHER are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16

WHAT IS A “PURPOSE-DRIVEN” CHURCH?

Drive = to guide, control, or direct

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but is it the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”
Proverbs 19:21

A FEW OF THE MANY BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH FAMILY

1. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME _____
2. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME _____
3. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME _____
4. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME _____
5. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME _____

Next Step

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YOU NEED OTHERS FOR SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

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"It is not good for man to be alone." Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

"Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others." Romans 12:5 (NLT)

WHY HAVING A CHURCH FAMILY IS SO IMPORTANT

1. I NEED OTHERS _____

"Just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him."
Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . Instead, let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)

- **COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO _____**
"When you gather, each one of you be prepared with something useful for all: Sing a song, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight . . . Take your turn, with no one person taking over. That way . . . you all learn from each other." 1 Corinthians 14:30-31 (The Message)

"As each part does its work, it helps the other parts grow, so Christ's whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

"Open your homes to each other without complaining." 1 Peter 4:9 (GNT)

2. I NEED OTHERS _____

"God made us to do good works, which he planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together." Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NCV)

- **COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO _____**
"Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith."
Galatians 6:10 (The Message)

3. I NEED OTHERS _____

"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own." Philippians 2:4 (GNT)

"Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord's followers should."
Hebrews 13:1 (CEV)

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

- **COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO _____**
"If one person falls, another can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble." Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NLT)

4. I NEED OTHERS _____

"You should be like one big family, full of sympathy toward each other."
1 Peter 3:8 (TLB)

"If one member suffers, all suffer together." 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

- **COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO _____**
"Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep."
Romans 12:15 (GNT)

"Encourage each other and strengthen one another."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GW)

5. I NEED OTHERS _____

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."
John 13:35 (NLT)

"The Holy Spirit doesn't want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them." 2 Timothy 1:7 (TLB)

- **GOD'S ANSWER TO FEAR IS _____**
"You are working together and struggling side by side to get others to believe the Good News." Philippians 1:27 (CEV)

Next Steps

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SHARING YOUR HOPE WITH OTHERS

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INSTRUCTIONS FROM JESUS:

- “Wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News!” Mark 16:15 (GW)
- “YOU will be my witnesses!” Acts 1:8
- “I’ve been given all authority . . . so go make disciples!” Matthew 28:18-19
- “Follow me and I’ll show you how to fish for people!” Matthew 4:19

“We are Christ’s ambassadors. God uses us to speak as though Christ himself is making this appeal: ‘God wants you to connect with him in a friendship!’”
2 Corinthians 5:20

MY JOB IN GOD’S FAMILY IS TO _____

THINGS TO REMEMBER THAT GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE!

- 1. EVERYBODY I MEET _____**
“God has planted eternity in the human heart.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

“Jesus included everyone in his death, so everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.”
2 Corinthians 5:15 (The Message)

Jesus said, “I have come so that you can have real life and eternal life, a better life than you ever dreamed of!” John 10:10 (The Message)
- 2. EVERYBODY HAS _____**
“None of us can ever fully understand all God has done, but he puts questions in our minds—about the past and the future.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (CEV)
- 3. MOST PEOPLE DON’T REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY BELIEVE AND THEY OFTEN _____**
“God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace.” 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NCV)

“When you know the truth, the truth will set you free!” John 8:32 (NLT)
- 4. ANYONE CAN BE SAVED IF I LISTEN FOR THE KEY TO THEIR HEART. THAT KEY IS THEIR _____**
“Everyone falls short of God’s glorious ideal.” Romans 3:23 (TLB)

5. PEOPLE HAVE EXCUSES BUT WE HAVE _____

“The Holy Spirit, God’s gift to you, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord.”

2 Timothy 1:7-8 (TLB)

Jesus said, “This will be your chance to tell about your faith. Don’t worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will give you the wisdom to know what to say.” Luke 21:13-15 (CEV)

HOW CAN I SHARE MY HOPE?

- 1. _____ !**
“Live such good lives among your unbelieving neighbors . . . that they see the good things you do, and will honor God by believing.” 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV/NLT)

“Practice hospitality!” Romans 12:13
- 2. _____ !**
“Always be ready to answer anyone who asks you to explain the reason for the hope you have, but do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15
- 3. _____**
“The righteous person is a guide to his friend.” Proverbs 12:26 (GNT)

“Friends always show their love.” Proverbs 17:17 (GNT)
- 4. _____**
“Always listen before you answer. If you don’t, you are being stupid and insulting.”
Proverbs 18:13 (GNT)

“A person’s thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out.” Proverbs 20:5 (GNT)
- 5. _____**
“I do know this: I was blind, but now I can see!” John 9:25 (NLT)
- 6. _____**
“Go into the streets and everywhere else and invite anyone you find to come with you so that my house will be full!” Luke 14:23

“Many people will see this and they will worship him. Then THEY will trust the Lord!” Psalm 40:3

WHY DO WE SHARE OUR HOPE?

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Everybody needs what Jesus offers! | Matthew 11:28-30 |
| 2. Jesus commands us to do it. | Mark 8:38 |
| 3. We’re grateful to God & we love people | 2 Corinthians 5:14 |
| 4. We will be rewarded in heaven | Proverbs 11:30 |

HOW WORSHIPING WITH OTHERS CHANGES YOU

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WHAT IS WORSHIP?

_____ **FOR WHO HE IS,
WHAT HE'S DONE, WHAT HE'S SAID, AND WHAT HE'S PROMISED TO DO!**

Jesus: "The most important command of all is this one: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind, and all your strength!"
Mark 12:29-30

WHY DO WE EXPRESS OUR LOVE TO GOD?

1. BECAUSE _____

"We love because God first loved us!" 1 John 4:19 (NCV)

"Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

2. BECAUSE _____

David: "These gifts did not really come from me and my people. Everything comes from you; we can only give you back what you have given us!" 1 Chronicles 29:14

3. BECAUSE _____

David: "I tried to understand it all, but it was too hard for me to see until I went to the Temple of God. Then I understood what was happening." Psalm 73:16-17

4. BECAUSE _____

"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning and turn darkness to light. You help me defeat the enemies of my life. Your way is perfect, Lord, and your word is correct. You are a shield for those who run to you for help . . . You give me strength and you guide me right!" Psalm 18:28-32 (CEV)

WHAT KIND OF WORSHIP DOES GOD LOVE?

_____ "Hezekiah dedicated his life to serving God. Everything he did in worship in God's temple, he did wholeheartedly. As a result, he was very successful and prospered."
2 Chronicles 31:21 (GW)

GOD HATES INSINCERE, HEARTLESS WORSHIP

GOD: "These people SAY they are mine, but they honor me only with their lips! Their hearts are far away from me! And their worship of me amounts to nothing more than human traditions that they have memorized and say by rote!" Isaiah 29:13

Jesus: "True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth! That's the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." John 4:23 (NIV)

IMPORTANT: _____ IS NOT WORSHIP

HOW TO TELL GOD YOU LOVE HIM (WAYS TO WORSHIP)

1. BY _____ **TO GOD'S WORD**

"Gather ALL the people together: men, women, children, and immigrants living in your towns so everyone can listen and learn to respect the Lord and carefully obey everything in his Word." Deuteronomy 31:12 (NCV)

Jesus: "Now that you KNOW these things, you will be blessed IF you DO them!"
John 13:17 (NIV)

Taking notes is part of worship!

2. BY _____ **WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS**

"Celebrate God! SING TOGETHER—everyone! All of you with honest hearts, raise the roof!" Psalm 32:11 (The Message)

3. BY _____ **TOGETHER IN PRAYER**

"They all joined TOGETHER constantly in prayer." Acts 1:14 (NIV)

"We must help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 (NCV)

4. BY _____ **TOGETHER**

"When we drink from the cup at the Lord's Table, it means that we are SHARING TOGETHER the blessing of Christ's blood. And when we break and eat the bread TOGETHER, it shows that we are SHARING TOGETHER in the Body of Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:16

5. BY _____

"Because of God's great mercy to you, offer your lives as living sacrifices to him, dedicated to serving him in a holy and pleasing way—this is your spiritual act of worship." Romans 12:1

6. BY _____ **SOME OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US**

"On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and give it back as your offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord helped you earn." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB)

7. BY _____ **PUBLICLY DECLARE OUR FAITH**

"Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ."

Colossians 2:12 (The Message)

"In Christ's Body you are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." Ephesians 2:22 (NIV)