

FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY
The Purpose Driven Life, Part 3
May 10th, 2009

Hebrews 2:10 (NCV) "God is the one who made all things, and all things are for His glory. He wanted to have many children share His glory..."

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT) "His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:17 (TM) "Love your spiritual family."

My 2nd Purpose In Life Is FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is loving God's FAMILY

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

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (NCV) "I'm writing... so you'll know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church..."

Church is not a place you go. Church is a family you BELONG TO

Four Levels Of Fellowship

Level 1: Membership – Choosing to BELONG

Eph. 2:19 "You are members of God's very own family... & you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

The church is where you live out what it MEANS to be a Christian

Romans 12:5 (NIV) "In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others."

BAPTISM is the picture that we belong together in the body of Christ

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

Romans 6:3 (TM) "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."

Baptism is a way of saying we have died to an OLD way of life & are living a NEW way

Level 2: Friendship – Learning to SHARE

Acts 2:44 (LB) "All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other."

You can't develop friendships without MEETING together & SHARING

What are we to share with each other?

a. our EXPERIENCES

Proverbs 27:17 (GN) "People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron."

b. our HOUSES - fellowship takes place in a SMALL group

1 Peter 4:9 (NCV) "Open your homes to each other."

c. our PROBLEMS

Galatians 6:2 (NLT) "Share each other's troubles and problems."

You don't have to FIX everybody's problem, but we are to SHARE them

The primary purpose of a group is to ENCOURAGE each other

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

Level 3: Partnership – doing my PART

God brought you to New Hope to SERVE

1 Corinthians 3:9 (GN) "We are partners working together for God."

In church you are part of the greatest team ever because what we do is going to LAST forever
Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) "The whole 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."

When we cooperate, we get more done together than we could ever get done by OURSELVES
Matt. 25:40 (NRSV) "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to Me."

Level 4: Kinship – Loving believers like FAMILY

Acts 2:42 (CEV) "...they were like family to each other."

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

"Koinonia" – We are committed to EACH OTHER as we are to Christ

At this level we are willing to SACRIFICE for each other

1 John 3:16 (NLT) "We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters."

"Fellowship of suffering" – standing with other believers when they are going through a CRISIS

Life is not about accomplishments; it's about CRISIS RELATIONSHIP

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

1 John 3:10 (NLT) "Anyone who... does not love other Christians does not belong to God."

1 John 4:20 (NCV) "Those who do not love their brothers and sisters, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have never seen."

1 Jn 3:14 (NLT) "If we love our Christian brothers & sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life."

God's family is a LABORATORY for learning to love

Everybody is created by God, but not everybody is a CHILD of God

You have to CHOOSE to be a part of God's family

Galatians 3:26 (NLT) "You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

My Next Step Today Is:

- I want to be baptized (if you haven't already done so) and officially join New Hope
- I want to join a small group for the remainder of "40 Days of Purpose"
- I want to find an area at New Hope to serve in
- I will attend the "Meet the Pastors" meal on Sunday, May 24th