

Life Group Notes

Sunday 4th June 2023

Speaker: Steve Mitchell

Title: Church As Family

Passage: Ephesians 2:18-19

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Our church's name puts the fact that we are a family front and centre. So why a family, why do we want to action church as family?

The reason is - it's modelled like that in the Bible everywhere you look:

1. GOD MODELS IT:

Genesis 2:18 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."

2. JESUS MODELS IT:

John 15:15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

3. THE EARLY CHURCH MODELS IT:

Acts 20:36-38 When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. ³⁷They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. ³⁸They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.

- Because God is a relational God and we are made in his image. God is relational in terms of the Trinity, God is relational in how he deals with us, how he communicates, he sends Jesus to earth for us, God models being relational to show us how we are to interact with each other.
- There are no solo missions in true Christianity, it's a relational thing, it was never intended to be a private thing. Jesus chose disciples, makes friends builds community.
- Jesus describes his disciples as Friend (Philos in Greek) as an adjective it is a statement of endearment, an emotional term. Jesus built his church family and loved them as friends till then end.
- The Acts Church modelled family on a mission: Being together, sharing everything, everything in common, but with a goal to win souls and add to their number.

Being family comes with a cost: It will cost you your time, its messy, it needs vulnerability, family requires sacrifice, dedication, commitment, contribution – we might get hurt – Jesus got hurt doing family: Peter denied him, Judas betrayed him, the others let him down at various times.

We are starting from a strong base in RFC, but there is always more and a next step in modelling this. He draws us close and he sends us out.

We are here to be family loving one another well - on a mission for Jesus - winning souls for Christ

Suggested Questions:

1. For those who attended, share a highlight from the weekend away.
2. What are the similarities and differences between the early church and RFC?
3. How can we love each other well? How can we love others outside the church well?
4. Do you see your faith as relational or as a solo mission? What does relational faith look like?
5. If we don't want to just be part of our community, but to win it, how does being a family help us do that?
6. Where is your mission field at the moment? What can your church family do to help bring more people to Jesus?