

The Measure of His Church Walking In His Image

Lesson 9: Measuring Our Commitment to Our Church Family (Part 2)

I. A Theology of the Church – A Theology of the Family

II. The Family Unit in the New Testament World

III. The Family Model in Ministry (Part 2)

A. Nurturing Christians “in the faith.”

1. God established a model for ministry in His larger family – The church of Jesus Christ (**Romans 16:16**).

2. Paul used His approach in his letters to bring his brethren to a greater measure of maturity.

a. **“Mother-child”** relationship (**I Thessalonians 2:7**) – What do these words by Paul communicate to his brethren? Was Paul a single man?

b. **“Father-child”** relationship (**I Thessalonians 2:10-11**) – Do fathers have a responsibility to nurture their children? (**Ephesians 6:4**) What influenced Paul in this area? See **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**

c. The picture is clear that God planned for the church to be nurtured like a mother and father would nurture their children.

i. **I Peter 2:2**

ii. **Galatians 4:19**

3. As Christians, what should be our leadership style when trying to lead others to Christ?

a. **I Peter 5:2-3**

b. **II Timothy 2:23-25**

B. The church, the family, and individuals

1. The larger group would be the local church.

a. The New Testament is in essence the “story of the church of Jesus Christ.”

i. **Matthew 16:18-19**

ii. **Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:17-18**

b. Jesus Christ and the twelve apostles (**Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 2:19-22**)

2. The family unit within the local church (**Ephesians 5:21-32, 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21**)
3. The marital relationship (**Ephesians 5:22-32, Colossians 3:18-21**)
4. The church made up of individuals (**I Corinthians 7:8-40, I Timothy 5:1-16**)

C. **The servant leaders in the local church**

1. God intended these leaders to work as a team, with different roles to fulfill.
2. **Acts 14:21-23, 20:17, 28 (15:6, 22; 21:18)**
3. **Ephesians 4:11, Romans 12:4-8**
4. **I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 5:1-4 (see Philipians 1:1, Hebrews 13:7, 17)**

D. **Intended results – A unique team – A partnership!**

1. **Ephesians 4:1-3**
2. **Example: Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18-1-4, 18-26, I Corinthians 16:19, Romans 16:3-4**

Conclusion:

1. Why did the church of Jesus Christ in the book of Acts (1st century) grow so much (**Acts 4:4, 6:1, 7**)?
 - a. What did the non-believers see in these new believers?
 - b. **Acts 2:44-47, 4:32-37**
2. As a local church family, can we do the same?