

Let's Talk About The Church: Week 1

The Church is A Family

Key Idea: Remember, the Church is already and not yet.

Key Scripture: Mark 3: 21; 32-35

*"It is in the Spirit of Christ, then that the early Chrsitian communities sought to become communities of love, to become **familial** and **familiar** settings in which the art of love could be **learned**, to become places where the **love** that bound together Son and Father could be a **visible, corporate reality** in the lives of those who had committed themselves to the Gospel."*

-Robert Banks

"Paul's Idea of Community"

The Apostle Paul And The Family Image:

The most significant metaphor Paul used in his writings to describe the church is "family." For the first several centuries of Christianity, Christians primarily gathered in homes. They shared meals, worship, and relationships in homes. This fostered more intimate connections than what was usually experienced in settings like the Temple or synagogues.

- After Pentecost, believers met in large groups in the temple and then gathered in smaller groups in homes (**Acts 2: 46; 5: 42**).
- The church grew quickly to 8,000 disciples who would have needed more than one hundred houses in which to hold their meetings. (**Acts 2: 41; 4:4**).
- The churches that Paul planted around the Aegean Sea met in the homes of individuals who served as hosts and patrons (**1 Cor. 16: 19; Col. 4: 15; Phlm 2; Rom 16: 5**).

As family:

A. We share relationships with the same _____.

- Galatians 4: 4-7
- So, you are not _____.

B. We stand as _____ of the same _____.

- Romans 8: 17
- So, you do not have to _____ for a place or for affection.

C. We serve as _____ and _____.

- Romans 12: 10
- So, we share _____ and work out _____ like family.