

Relating in Gospel Community

SESSION THREE: THE ONE ANOTHERS

A Relational Display

God exists eternally in community – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and it has been his plan since before Creation to create a people who together would display what he is like. The Church is his new creation community that displays the manifold wisdom of God to the heavenly realms (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 3:10) and is the physical incarnation of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23) displaying to the world what God is like. In John 17 Jesus prayed that those who would believe in him might participate with the oneness of the Godhead and thus bring glory to God by being a relational display of His gospel.

As we discussed last time, the Church displays the Gospel and the relational reality of the Godhead in three different ways: We are 1) A gospel Review; 2) A gospel Preview and 3) A Live Showing of the active working out of the Gospel

In what ways are we a Gospel Review (Displaying what God has accomplished in and through the person and work of Jesus Christ)?

How can we be a foretaste of the future consummation of the Kingdom to the city or neighborhood we are in?

How can we be a present showing of the Kingdom reign of God over our hearts as we live out our gospel family identity?

Three Key Relationships of Gospel Community

At one point Jesus was asked by a lawyer what the greatest commandment in the Law was and Jesus responded: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:35-40).*

Jesus knew that loving relationships were what God had originally intended for his Creation and therefore explained that it is in loving God and others that the law is being fulfilled. In fact, the law was put in place to show us how to love God and others and yet, as is readily apparent, we did not nor are we able to love God and others perfectly. Jesus came to love God and others on our behalf, to die to forgive us for not living lives of love and to send his Spirit to enable us to love as He does. The gospel leads us and empowers us to live lives of love in three key relationships:

The Self: The Family of God is a Chosen Race that is made up of individuals who are Sons of God being transformed into the image of Christ

In order for the people of God to be a display people to the world of what God the Father is like, we must each:

1. Understand and believe that it is God's choosing and God's work through the gospel that makes us Sons of God
2. Become aware of any belief or behavior that is not in line with our Sonship and repent and believe who we are in Christ because of Jesus' finished work
3. Submit to the Spirit increasingly so that the reign of God rules our hearts – *'walking in line with the truth of the gospel'*
4. Be imitators of God who display what he is really like – *'we are his offspring'*
5. Engage in ongoing interaction with God through His Word, listening to His Spirit, and engaging in a variety of spiritual disciplines for ongoing growth in gospel Sonship
6. Other:

The Community of Faith: The Family of God is a People Called Out to God who really know each other and share life together as a contrast community

To be a called out people who collectively display the community and unity of the Trinity we must:

1. Know each other's stories and how each of us needs to grow in Gospel Sonship
2. Actually share our lives with each other (resources, time, joys and sorrows, strengths and weaknesses; etc...)
3. Consider how each of the One Anothers leads us to both Gospel Dependency and Gospel Demonstration:
 - » Pray for one another
 - » Be Devoted to one another
 - » Carry each other's burdens
 - » Confess your sins one to another
 - » Encourage one another
 - » Forgive one another
 - » More...

The City or Community: The Family of God is a City within a City called to dwell amongst those who don't yet believe as a contrast community

To be the family of God who is a city within a city we must:

1. Love those around us as though they are/may be family
2. Treat our city as our home (see Jeremiah 29)
3. Know the stories of those God has sent us to dwell amongst and show them what life is like as Sons of God (through demonstration and declaration)
4. Actively share your lives with them so that they can hear and see the REVIEW of the Kingdom; taste the PREVIEW of the Kingdom; and interact with the ongoing work of the Spirit – the LIVE SHOWING of the Kingdom at work in your heart
5. Extend the *One Anothers* into city life
6. Other: