



LifeTogether

Part 1: **Created for Community**



LifeTogether

We will be a church **of** small groups,
not just a church with small groups.

We will value, both in theology and
practice, **spiritual community**.



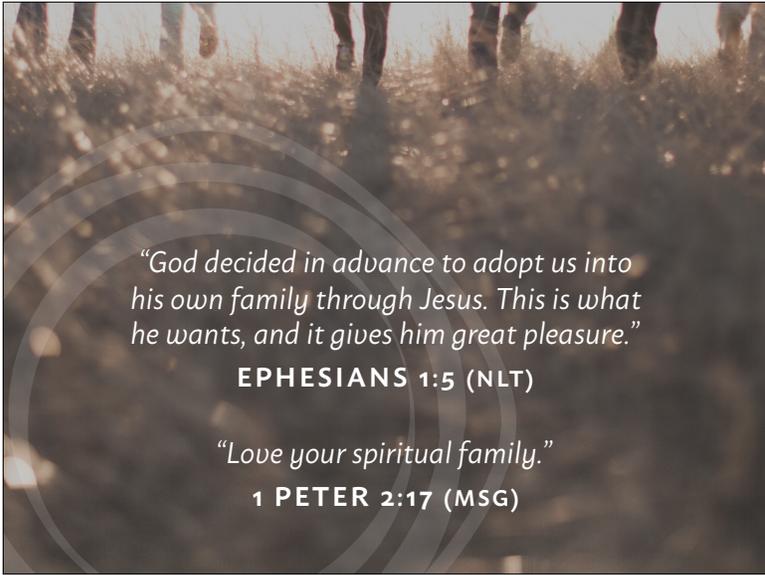
LifeTogether

"They committed themselves to...the life together."
ACTS 2:42 (MSG)

"They were like family to each other." (CEV)

*"God made all things for His glory, and wanting to
have many children to share his glory, brought us
into his eternal family through Jesus."*

HEBREWS 2:10 (NCV)



“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family through Jesus. This is what he wants, and it gives him great pleasure.”

EPHESIANS 1:5 (NLT)

“Love your spiritual family.”

1 PETER 2:17 (MSG)

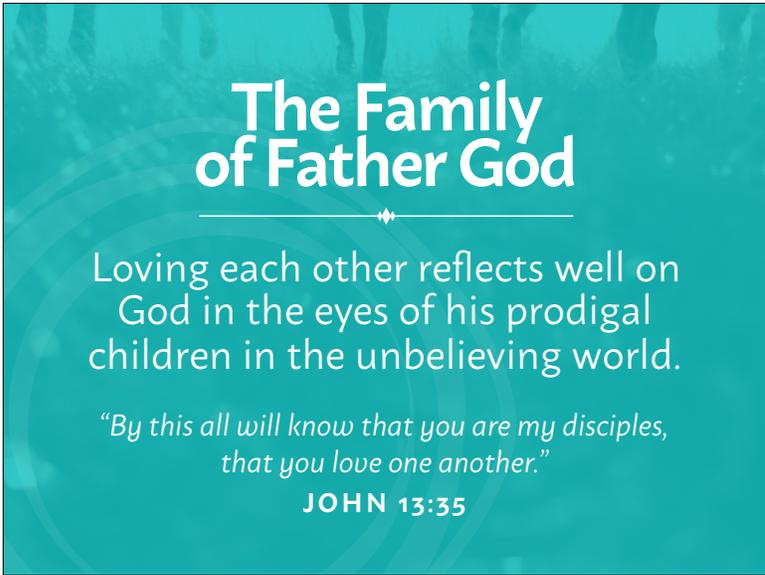


The Family of Father God

Loving each other pleases the fatherly heart of God.

“For [where the Lord finds family unity] there he commands the blessing, even life for evermore.”

PSALM 133:3



The Family of Father God

Loving each other reflects well on God in the eyes of his prodigal children in the unbelieving world.

“By this all will know that you are my disciples, that you love one another.”

JOHN 13:35

The Family of Father God

Loving each other now is preparation
for loving each other in eternity.

*“To all who receive Jesus...he gives the right to become
children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor
of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”*

JOHN 1:12-13

“They were devoted to the fellowship.”

ACTS 2:42

Fellowship: *loving God’s family.*

*“The person who loves God must
also love other believers.”*

1 JOHN 4:21 (NLT)



We must master
fellowship since it is
impossible to love
God without
belonging to and
loving his family.



MASTERING THE
LifeTogether

1

*Life together starts
with gathering.*

"They met together constantly." Acts 2:44 (LB)



Get intentional about
spiritual community.
Arrange your life
around it. If you need
to, put it as a standing
appointment on your
calendar!



MASTERING THE
LifeTogether

2

*Life together is
energized by giving.*

*"All the believers shared everything with each other."
ACTS 2:44 (LB)*



Sharing Everything

We must share
our **homes.**

"They broke bread in their homes daily."

ACTS 2:46

"Open your homes to each other."

1 PETER 4:9 (TEV)

Sharing Everything

We must share
our **hurts.**

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you
will fulfill the law of Christ."*

GALATIANS 6:2

Sharing Everything

We must share
our **hearts.**

*"We loved you dearly. Not content to just
pass on the Good News, we wanted
to give you our hearts also."*

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8



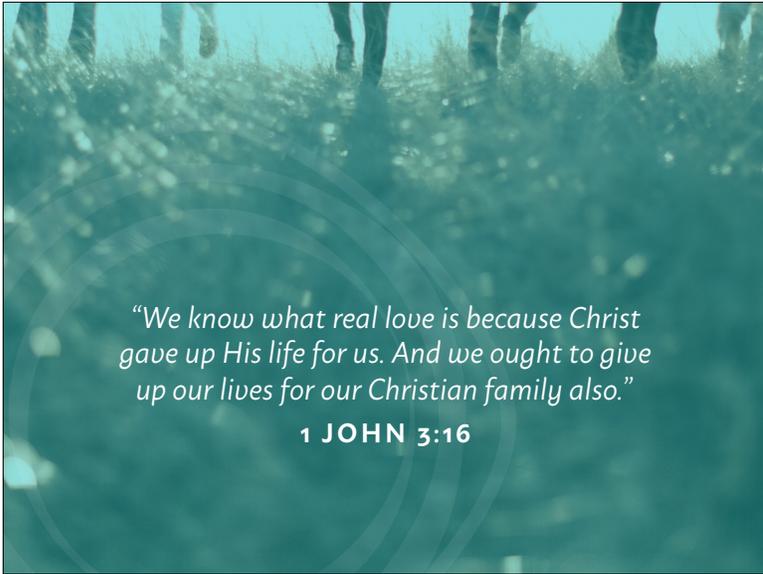
THE FRUIT OF
FELLOWSHIP

Kinship:

Life-giving relationship that comes from being as committed to each other as we are to Christ.

“Be devoted to each other like a loving family.”

ROMANS 12:10 (GW)



“We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And we ought to give up our lives for our Christian family also.”

1 JOHN 3:16



THE FRUIT OF
FELLOWSHIP

—♦—
The greatest benefit of fellowship is kinship, and the greatest blessing of kinship is sacrifice—people sacrificing for you, and you for them.





**My love for God is
authenticated by fellowship:**
*loving my fellow believers
like I love Jesus.*

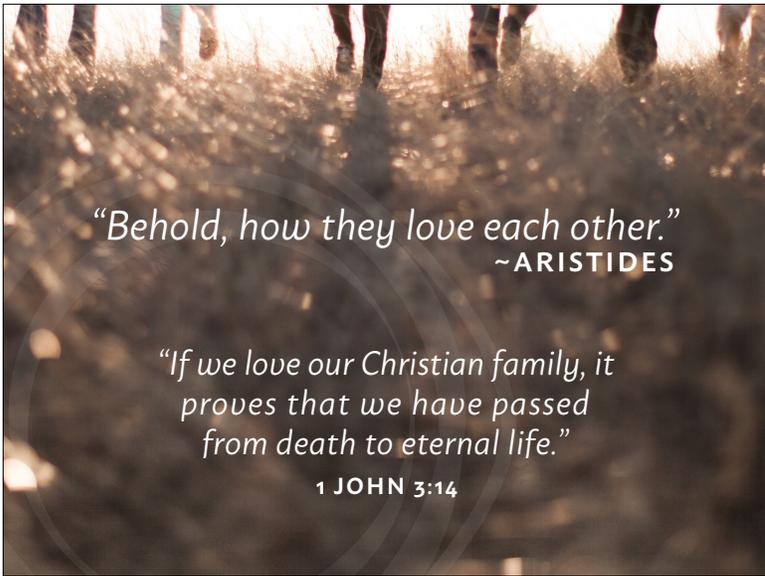
**God's love for me
flows from fellowship:**
*my fellow believers loving me like
they love Jesus.*



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“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you. By this, everyone will know you’re mine!”

JOHN 13:34-35



“Behold, how they love each other.”
~ARISTIDES

“If we love our Christian family, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life.”

1 JOHN 3:14



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