

May 8-9, 2021

Title: The Church in the World, Pt. 2: "Be the Church" – Ephesians 4:1-3

Big Idea: Be the church – the family of God in unity, love and humility.

What in the message stood out to you?

What unanswered questions do you have?

1. To be the church is to be a FAMILY.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12. What are the characteristics of being the church that you see in these verses? Why do you think Paul compares himself to a mother and a father?

Read John 1:12. How does a person become part of the family of God? What does it mean to "receive?" What does it mean to "believe?"

2. To be the church is to become like JESUS.

Read Ephesians 4:1-3. What are the characteristics of being the church that you see in these verses? Which of them stand out to you the most? Where do you think you personally think you need the most improvement?

Read Ephesians 4:4-6. Based on these verses, where does our unity as a church come from and what is it based on?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What is the goal of the church based on these verses? How is it accomplished? What has been your experience of this in the church?

3. To be the church is to be members of ONE BODY.

Read Romans 12:4-6. What does it mean that we are members of one body? What does it mean that we are individually members of one another? What does this practically mean for how to be the church?

4. To be the church is to do the "ONE ANOTHERS!"

Ephesians 4:2 uses the phrase, "bearing with one another in love..." This is the Greek word "allelon," which appears 193 times in the New Testament, 47 of which give instructions for how to be the church that can be summarized by three words he uses in Ephesians 4:1-3: UNITY, LOVE AND HUMILITY.

**Unity – Be ONE with each other!**

- Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
- Don't grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
- Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:16, 15:5)
- Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
- Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
- Wait for one another (1 Co 11:33)
- Don't bite, devour, and consume one another (Ga 5:15)
- Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26).
- Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
- Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
- Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
- Don't complain against one another (Jas 4:11, 5:9)

Why is unity so important for the church? What is the effect when there is disunity? What are some things that might cause disunity and how should we address them?

### **Love – LOVE each other!**

- Love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7, 11; 2 Jn 5)
- Greet one another (Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12, 1 Pe 5:14)
- Be devoted to one another (Ro 12:10)
- Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
- Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
- Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
- Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
- Comfort one another (1 Th 4:18)
- Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- Stir up one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
- Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
- Confess your sins to one another (Jas 5:16)
- Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)

Why is the love the most important thing it means to be the church? Does the instruction to love one another like this require being part of a smaller group rather than only a larger group? Why or why not?

### **Humility – Be HUMBLE toward each other!**

- Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)
- Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
- Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)
- Don't be arrogant: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
- Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
- Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

Why do you think God opposes the proud? Why is humility so important to Him? What impact does pride have on others? What impact does humility have on others?

### 5. To be the church is to be ON MISSION together

Read John 13:34-35 and John 17:21-23. Why do you think people will know Jesus came from God if we have unity and love for one another? Why is this such a powerful witness?

#### Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

Are there any brothers and sisters in Christ that you are divided from? What does God want you to do? Are there any areas of pride that you need to confess and turn from?

Are there any brothers and sisters in Christ that God wants you to love with your words, actions or prayers this week?

Are there any unbelievers you need to invite into your circle of believers to see your unity, love and humility?