

Mission Marker: Family

Greg Wendschlag October 11, 2016

Mission Marker: Family – Who I am with

*“Once you were not a people, but now you are the **people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Pet. 2:10*

I. The family of God is **accepting**.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Jn. 13:34

The church must guarantee that:

1. You will be **loved** deeply.
2. You will be **accepted** completely.
3. You will be **forgiven** continually.

Acceptance is not license. Acceptance is love in action.

II. The aim of the family is to **grow to maturity**.

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:11-13

To grow to maturity we must accept:

1. The **authority** of God’s structure.
2. The **accountability** to each other.
3. The **responsibility** for each other.

A person cannot attain the “whole measure of the fullness of God” apart from the family.

III. The Family of God is **forever**.

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” 1 Thess. 4:17

Forever family practices:

1. Reject the **consumer mentality**.
2. Relationships require **intentional investment**.
3. Realize that **conflict** is part of growing together.

It is not up to us to go find a group of believers that is more like us but to invest in a group of believers until we become more like Jesus.

Next Steps

1. If there is anyone in the church you cannot accept or have not forgiven, pray that the Lord will give you His mind for that person. Then go to #2!
2. Invite someone to spend time with you this week.
3. Join a Group InCommon growth group.