

*Sunday Meeting at SCF 22/07/18*

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## ***Relationships Matter***

# **‘God’s desire for missional families’**



# Jesus gave us a blueprint for how to be His Church



“By this we know love by this, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

1 JOHN 3:16

# Quote illustrating God's Eternal Purpose

*“The Father obtained a **Bride** for His Son by the Spirit. He then builds a **House** in which He, the Son, and the bride dwell together in the Spirit. The Father, the Son, and the bride live in that house as an extended household and they have offspring by the Spirit. The offspring constitutes a **Family**, a new humanity called “the **Body** of Christ.”*

‘From Eternity to Here’ by Frank Viola



# Five Relational Pictures of a Growing Church in Ephesians

- ***The Bride***      *Intimacy with JESUS (See 5:29-32)*
- ***The House***      *Lifestyle of worship (See 2:19-22)*
- ***The Family***      *Births/disciples relationally (See 1:5)*
- ***The Body***      *Identifying, equipping, functioning (See 1:22,23)*  
*(...and until He comes...)*
- ***The Army***      *Engaging in apostolic mission (See 6:10-11)*

# ***The relational unity between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit***

- Kingdom *communitas* community has been passed down from:
- The Godhead to...
- Jesus to ...
- The 12 Apostles to...
- Us, the Church His Body



# The cost of being His church family and its consequences

Being His Church Family	The Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meets for 'missional' fellowship in one another's homes.</li><li>2. Gathers for intentional, intimate group discipleship.</li><li>3. New creation identity is formed and revealed intentionally.</li><li>4. Protects our cherished values of love, mercy and grace.</li><li>5. Meets the needs of the poor and the lonely.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Shared lives and homes builds real relationships and satisfies the heart of God (Acts 2:42-47).</li><li>2. Discipleship reality sharpens the soul and causes rapid growth, but may threaten un-surrendered prides; insecurities and inner wounds.</li><li>3. Body starts functioning and serving.</li><li>4. What we all corporately love being starts to spread and bless.</li><li>5. Many needy people come to Jesus.</li></ol>

# The Essence of God's Covenant with His People

- “For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16

- “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

JOHN 17:22-23



# ***The Contrast Between Agape and Phileo Love***

## ***Agape Love***

- ⦿ Loves even if no love's returned
- ⦿ Perseveres under trial
- ⦿ Constant, hopeful and joyful
- ⦿ Loves the unlovely
- ⦿ Believes by faith
- ⦿ Sees the invisible and does the impossible



## ***Phileo Love***

- ⦿ Loves if affection is being reciprocated
- ⦿ Gives up under trial
- ⦿ Happiness ends if things go awry
- ⦿ Shows partiality
- ⦿ Prone to doubts and cynicism
- ⦿ Relies on rational wisdom



# ***More Contrasts Between Agape and Phileo Love***

## ***Agape Love***

- ⦿ Is buoyant and pro-active
- ⦿ Sees past the outward to the heart
- ⦿ Not self seeking or arrogant
- ⦿ Turns the other cheek
- ⦿ Is kind and tender, not rude
- ⦿ Serves without self-interest



## ***Phileo Love***

- ⦿ An ill-wind capsizes them
- ⦿ Reacts harshly to negativity
- ⦿ Can be haughty and smug when successful
- ⦿ Bites back when bitten
- ⦿ Yields to moods and selfishness
- ⦿ Serves to be noticed



# Are we prepared to count the cost and pay the price for being His Spiritual Family?

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” HEBREWS 3:13

## *Quick questions to discuss*

- What challenges might occur if we go deeper as a spiritual family?
- What blessings might we enjoy if we go deeper as a spiritual family?
- What growth and maturity might develop?