

Be the Church

1. FAMILY BUILDER

John 13:34–35³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Can you imagine sitting there being Peter?

- The flash back of memories.
- You will Remember the 1st call.
- How he healed your mother in Law.
- How he changed your name from Simon to Peter ...

Walking on water.

- Remember the rebuke...
- The parables... all the Teaching, all the Training.

Will remember how you Fished together.

- Sang together and shared together.

There would have been a flood of memories.

- Of Teaching, Training, Loving, Caring.

Now Jesus is saying, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you...”

Love = Agape Love = Unconditionally Love

- Unconditionally give yourself to one another as I have given myself to you.

They were not going to church, they were being the church.

- They were “being” God’s family.

³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples...

That you are my Ma-thee-ties.

- That you are my followers.
- That you have learned from me.

...if you love one another.”

What does this look like?

- Sunday doesn't make us God's family.
- Weekly FG's is not going to make us God's family!

Doing life together is what makes us God's family.

- Being in the trenches with one another is what makes us God's family.

Unconditionally giving yourself to one another, is what makes us God's family.

Sunday services – you can give or take away.

- Same with FG.

Giving ...

- I attend, I am interested ...
- Vulnerable ...

Taking away ...

- Don't attend when not convenient.
- Only talk at group.
- WhatsApp

Family at the dinner table

Discipline only works well inside of love and trust.

- 99% is good relationship.

2. EIKON MAKERS

Colossians 1:28–29 ²⁸ He ^[Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

This is a super dense passage ...

- That we will unpack at some point through our Knowing God video's.

But, let's see if we can unpack some of it.

He is the one we proclaim ...

Who is "He" ??? = Jesus

- Jesus who is the Image (or Eikon) of the invisible God.
- Jesus is the one through whom God created all things ...
- And for whom God created all things.
- He is the one we proclaim.

How do we proclaim him?

- **By admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom.**
- Wisdom from the scriptures.
- Wisdom and guidance through and from the Holy Spirit.

Why?

so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

The **Jews** would never have agreed that God had any use for every man.

- They refused to accept that he was the God of the gentiles.
- That idea seemed blasphemous.

The **Gnostics** would never have agreed that every man could be warned ...

- Taught and presented complete to God.

They believed that the knowledge necessary for "salvation" ...

- Was so involved and difficult that it must be the possession of a chosen few.

For Centuries People saw the thought ...

- Of teaching wisdom to all men as utopian.
- They believed that the "mature" life was for a select few.

Paul is saying, NO!

- In Jesus and through Jesus everyone can be made mature.
- Everyone can be restored to the "Eikon" of Jesus.

He then continues in ²⁹ **To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.**

To this end ... **illustrate from where I am to where God has created me to be in Christ.**

To this end I strenuously contend ...

- This is not easy!

So how does he do it?

... with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Help each other get brighter and brighter

We seem to have either ...

- Shallow relationship with spiritual times.
- Or good relationships, but not the truth.
- Lazy, comfortable, blind???

Men, we need to lead on this!

Practice! Practice! Practice!

Two extremes ...

1. Black & White
2. Say nothing

Where is the happy place in the middle.

Practical's

- Timing, Read the Room.
- Follow up next day.

3. MULTIPLIERS

Mark 3:13–14 ¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ...

So that they might be with him

- Do live together. John 13. Colossians 1:28

That he might send them out to preach

- So that the family that is the Eikon of God will food the world.

John 20:21²¹ Jesus said, "... As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

We need to take these two things ...

- Families + Eikon = Multiply