

Living In God's Family

Part One - Pastor Raymond Woodward



- The original Greek word for church is EKKLESIA, which meant “an assembly of free citizens who were _____ of their homes or places of business to _____.”

1 John 3:1 (MSG) What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

1 Peter 1:3b (LB) It is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family.

Galatians 4:6-7 (MSG) You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, "Papa! Father!" Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.

Ephesians 2:19 (LB) Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Romans 12:4-5 (NLT) Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (MSG) The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

- The word of God commands us to love the church as much as _____. But sadly, many Christians who know John 3:16 are unaware of _____.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

- Real maturity shows up in _____.

Hebrews 3:13 (NJB) Every day, as long as this today lasts, keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the lure of sin,

Hebrews 10:25 (LB) Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

- The difference between being a church **ATTENDER** and a church **MEMBER** is found in one word: _____.
- Attenders are _____ from the sidelines; members get involved in the ministry.
- Attenders are _____; members are contributors.
- Attenders want the _____ of a church without sharing the responsibility; members put church at the center of their lives.
- Attenders are like couples who want to _____ without committing to a marriage; members say, _____!
- God wants you to love _____ people, not _____ people.

Acts 2:42 (CEV) They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together.

2 Corinthians 8:5b (TEV) First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will they gave themselves to us as well.