

Who R We?

“The Church: it’s not about your family...it’s about God’s family.”

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “family”?

Why would the New Testament use the imagery of “family” to describe the church?

The church as “family”...

“Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, ‘Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.’ ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother’” (Mark 3:31-35).

“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you” (1 Corinthians 1:10-11).

Observations about “family”...

- Family involves connection.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 John 3:16).

- Family involves growth.

“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently” (Galatians 6:1a).

- BUT family is always messy
 - Because we are different people;
 - Because we are broken people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “family”?
- Read Mark 3:31-35, where Jesus describes his followers as “family.” Why do you think Jesus’ words were shocking to those who heard them? Does it shock you that he would speak this way? If so, why?
- In what ways have you seen the church as a community of connection and growth? In what ways has it been messy?
- What happens when we try to avoid the mess?
- How does the imagery of family challenge you to engage our church community?