

August 21, 2022 Meeker Christian Church PDL #3

Last week we looked at God's first purpose, which is to get to know Him and to love Him. The Bible calls that **worship**. It is the essential first step for life and salvation. We were created with a desire to know our beginnings and our destiny. Neither our beginnings nor our destiny is revealed until God is desired by a person, invited and received into their heart and become one in God's eternal essence because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Col.3:3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. We call that salvation.

Today we're going to look at the second purpose, which is **fellowship**. In the first purpose of life we were formed for God's pleasure, in the second purpose of life we are formed for God's family. ESV Hebrews 2:10 *"God is the one who made all things, and all things are for His glory. He wanted to have many children share His glory."*

God wanted a family. That's why we are here. And the Bible says He planned everything in the entire universe so we could be born, so we could share in His glory, so we could be part of His family. LB Ephesians 1:5 *"God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ."*

In fact, the entire Bible is the story of God building a family. God is building a family for Himself that is going to last not just here on earth, but forever and ever and ever in eternity. You were made to last forever.

1 Peter 1:3-4 NIV *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,*

This eternal inheritance, - not retirement, is what believers are to be looking forward to and working for in life.

God wants us to focus and practice His second purpose in our lives. NIV I Peter 2:17 *Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*

In other words the ones who **worship** God with their lives, the first purpose, and now the second purpose, to grow in relationship with God and their fellow spiritual family, - are experiencing this vital **fellowship**.

Your spiritual family is going to go on forever. God wants us to love our spiritual family. As we do, it makes us more like God because God is love. Heaven is a place of love. Our lives on this earth are meant to practice loving other believers. /// But please digest this next verse carefully about that loving relationship: John 14:21 *“Whoever has my commands and keeps them **is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.**”*

satan hates love – he has counterfeited it with lust, passion, power, pretense, and a gillion other fictitious, fake and false substitutes!!!

Knowing and keeping God’s instruction for living is loving God and being loved by God. That is what is best for us designed by the one who created us! That is our second purpose in life - FELLOWSHIP which the Bible addresses in: 1 John 4:21 NLT *And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.* It is not an option, if you are a Christian you will love your fellow believers.

Fellowship is the word that the Bible uses to describe loving each other and fellowship is loving God’s family. We love and know to love because God first loved us. 1John 4:19 KJV *We love Him, because He first loved us.*

And just how are we to love others? The Bible gives us crystal clear instructions. Paul said in 1 Timothy 3:14-15 NI V 14 *Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

We are to love other believes by studying the Bible and practicing through fellowship in the local congregation. And choosing to belong is

the most basic level of fellowship. That means a person finds a church family and choose to get connected to it and get involved in it.

In Ephesians 2:19 KJV *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

And the instruction continues by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:5 NIV *"So in Christ we, though many, form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

Choosing to belong with a fellowship group is applying our Spiritual gifts for the well-being of the group. Acts 2:44 is a model for us to follow: *"All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other."*

That model is sharing our experiences and problems just as Proverbs 27:17 teaches *"People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron."* or as the KJV Pr 27:17 *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

It is wise to learn from the experiences of others, because we just don't have time to make all the mistakes ourselves.

Sharing is realizing that each and every person has a contribution to make. GOD wants to make a difference through your life. In every family there are family responsibilities. This is a Christian family, God's family. And every one of us has a part in it. The Bible is filled with the fact that you and I are to work with one another in getting this job done. We serve one another. We love one another. We pray with one another. We work with one another. This is love in action. Not just in words. 1 Corinthians, chapter 3: 9. *"For we are God's fellow workers. You are god's field, God's building."* ESV

We're partners working together for God. Ephesians 4:16 says. *"The whole body is fitted together perfectlyAs each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love."* We are a part of God's body. And

that body is working together so that we get things done! **We - everyone**, have a part to play in the Body of Christ. And when we cooperate, we get more done together than we could ever get done by ourselves. /// There is an attitude, a heart attitude that we're doing it for Jesus Christ.

In this context I am asking you to consider this thought and give me some feedback./// Looking around our church family as well as the community at large, I see a number of widows and older single men and women. The Bible reminds us to take care of our widows in

*James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and **widows** in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

??Could or should, or is there a ministry already in place for widows and single men and women to call for help or deal with the issue of loneliness that is so prevalent in our community? What do you think?

Do you have an interest, concern, passion and spiritual gift in that regard?

The word for our study of fellowship in the Bible is the Greek word "koinonia." The basic root literally means being as committed to each other as we are to Jesus Christ; that is the deepest level of this fellowship of which we speak.

Our first purpose is loving God, that's called "Worship," our second purpose is loving each other, that's called "Fellowship." JESUS said in *John 13:34-35 "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."*

My prayer for Meeker Christian Church is that community folks would say, "That's the place where they love each other," because that's what Christianity is all about, loving God and loving and caring for each other.

I have discovered that people are very seldom looking for doctrine; they

are looking for love. They don't care how much you know until they know how much you truly care.

The greatest privilege you will ever be offered in life is the privilege of being a part of God's family. God's family is a laboratory for learning to love. Some have grown up in homes that didn't have a lot of love. They didn't know the true Godly AGAPE love of the Bible. So the church (the family of God) is where one is to learn to love real people, not some unrealistic ideal people satan constantly inundates us with or causes us to compare ourselves with. Nobody is ideal, we all fall short. We learn to love real people, and that's what God put us on earth to do and that's called fellowship, Our second purpose in life.

///Everybody is created by God, but not everybody is a child of God. Everyone has to choose to be a part of God's family to learn and model God's love. Have you chosen God and His love by confessing your faith and belief in Jesus and following through with baptism? If you have praise the Lord – if not please consider coming forward and speaking to me as we stand together and sing our

Invitation Hymn I Surrender All 516

Closing Prayer - Jim

Benediction: God Be With You 1st verse 177