



Church Family

Family, as in church family, is defined in Webster's as, "a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation : fellowship". There are times I have found that definitions from Webster are somewhat bland and general but this one appears to be pretty detailed. Buckle up while I break it down.

"A group of people"

A church of one person is no more a church than a family can be made up of a single being. That's an individual not a corporate association. Living, active, participating PEOPLE. People with a passion. People with an opinion and desires. A connection to others around a central theme. A church family is at its core a "group of people".

"united"

Notice it is "a group" and not several groups. United as one. When Jesus was approaching His death on the cross, He prayed for all the believers starting with the disciples and following all the way through you and I. And what did He pray for? Unity. Above all else, He wanted us to be "One" (John 17). It doesn't mean we are all identical and "clones". That is a cult. But we are a family. We allow our siblings to be themselves and love the commonness we share in Christ. Romans 12 says much more to that.

"certain convictions"

Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." We all have burdens. And they are various in form. Some are sin. Some are pain. But we all carry burdens. Family help carry the burdens of each other. No one has to struggle alone. I grab your arm and you grab mine and we walk through life, storms and sunshine, together. Life is hard, but God is good. And He is "fleshed" out in our church family.

"common affiliation"

We come here for Christ. Our focus is Christ. Our passion is Christ. Our love is Christ. He is our salvation and resurrection. He is our "common Bond." Everything we do, whether fellowship, prayer or Bible study is for His purpose and relationship in our life. If you haven't noticed that about us, let me know!

So now...let's "fellowship."

From My Heart,

Billy