

Church as Family

Church as Home

Key Passages

- Pauls letters to the Corinthians:
 - *“Diversity Without Divisions”*
- 1 Corinthians 16:10-24
- Paul Loved the Corinthian Church

- Sunday 3rd September & Sunday 10th September

Epping Forest Community Church

A Relational Community



That we may share God's love & truth with others.

God is Good – God is Love

- *Normally 1 Corinthians 13*

Instead: *1 John 4: 7-8*

- *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*
- *Whoever does not love does not know God, **because God is love***

God is Good – God is Love

Dear friends,

let us love one another,

for love comes from God.

*Everyone who loves has been born of God
and knows God.*

*Whoever does not love does not know God,
because God is love*

1 John 4: 7-8

Love – Galatians 5:22-23- Fruit of the Spirit

- you will produce the fruit of the Spirit: ‘love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control’
- The way I define love is by using the fruit of the Spirit, which starts with love:
 - joy is love rejoicing
 - peace is love at rest
 - patience is love waiting
 - kindness is love in action – “useful kindness” meeting real needs
 - goodness is love deep within
 - faithfulness is love keeping its word
 - gentleness is love empathising
 - self-control is love resisting temptation

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LOVE
OTHERS
VERY
EAGERLY

LIVES
OVERCOMING
VICTORIOUSLY
EVERYTHING

LIVING
OUR
VALUES
EVERYDAY

Church as Family

Church as Home

So now you ..are no longer strangers
and foreigners.

You are citizens along with all of
God's holy people.

You are members of God's family

Ephesians 2:19 NLT

(1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

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TOGETHER
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FAMILY
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Here
Only
Misfits
Exist

Hope
Opportunity
Manifests
Eternal

1 Cor 16:10-24

¹⁰⁻¹¹ If Timothy shows up, take good care of him. Make him feel completely at home among you. He works so hard for the Master, just as I do. Don't let anyone disparage him. After a while, send him on to me with your blessing. Tell him I'm expecting him, and any friends he has with him.

¹² About our friend Apollos, I've done my best to get him to pay you a visit, but haven't talked him into it yet. He doesn't think this is the right time. But there will be a "right time."

¹³⁻¹⁴ Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Would you do me a favour, friends, and give special recognition to the family of Stephanas? You know, they were among the first converts in Greece, and they've put themselves out, serving Christians ever since then. I want you to honour and look up to people like that: companions and workers who show us how to do it, giving us something to aspire to.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ I want you to know how delighted I am to have Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus here with me. They partially make up for your absence! They've refreshed me by keeping me in touch with you. Be proud that you have people like this among you.

¹⁹ The churches here in western Asia send greetings. Aquila, Priscilla, & the church that meets in their house say hello.

²⁰ All the friends here say hello. Pass the greetings around with holy embraces!

²¹ And I, Paul—in my own handwriting!—send you my regards.

²² If anyone won't love the Master, throw him out. Make room for the Master!

²³ Our Master Jesus has his arms wide open for you. ²⁴ & I love all of you in the Messiah, in Jesus

Why We're Lonelier Than Ever

- Our communal life is going extinct.
- And it is making us lonelier than ever.
- We don't see the same things anymore. (TV v netflix)
- We don't talk about the same things anymore. (single v multiple conversations)
- We don't even consume the same information anymore.(personal news channels, feeds, filter, self selecting)
- Everything has been individualized. (album v personal headphones, personal playlists)
- Our communal life is being eclipsed by technology (facebook, email)
I, Paul, am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away! 2 Cor 10:1

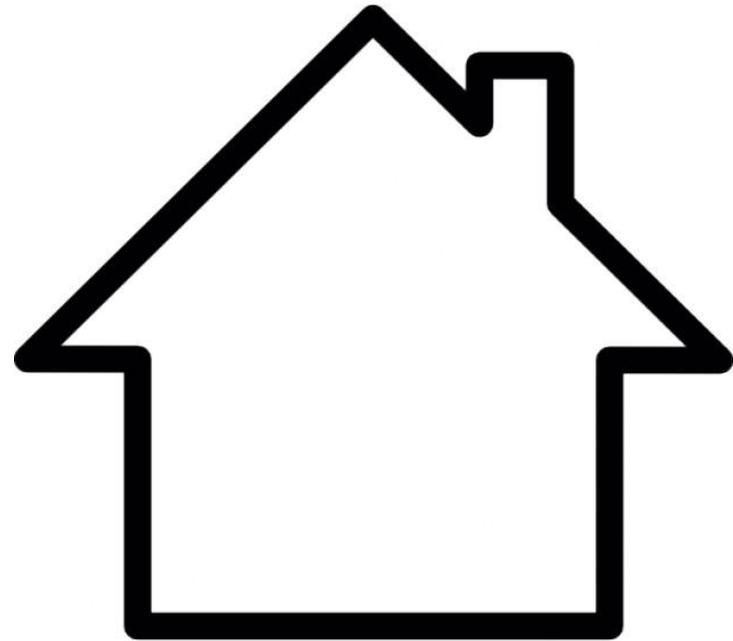
"The light of our togetherness is something we have to reclaim and protect. We're going to have to put down our phones and pick up the thread of the same conversation. We're going to have to take out our ear buds so that something more eternal can bud within us and between us."

Welcome Home!

Church as Home

*If Timothy shows up, take good care of him.
Make him feel completely at home among you*

– 1 Cor 16: 10-11



Who will you make feel completely a home?

Home as Church

“Aquila & Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, & so does the church that meets at their house”. 1 Cor 16: 19

Are you a member of a Homegroup?



The Church as place for Family



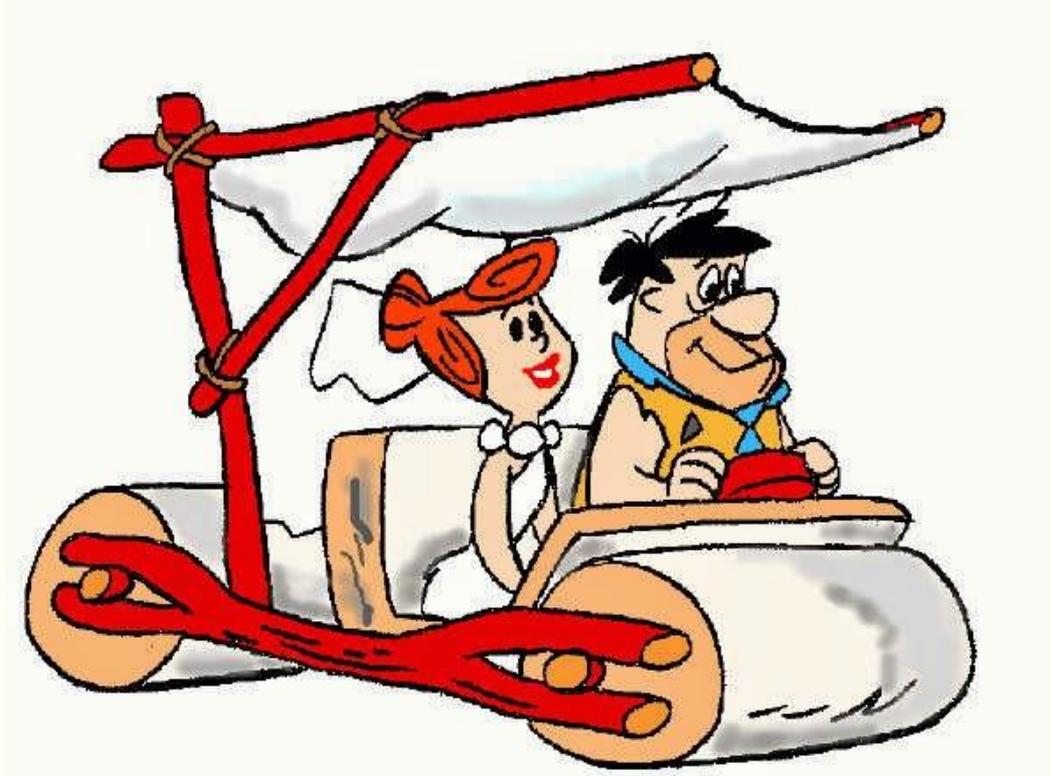
Psalm 68v6 God sets the solitary in families

A Place for Friends

- About our **friend** Apollos, I've done my best to get him to pay you a visit, but haven't talked him into it yet. He doesn't think this is the right time. But there will be a "right time." 1 Cor 16:12
- Be patient!
- Love:
 - Forgive
 - Freely give (Generous)
 - Follow through
 - Fun
 - Feast (Celebrate)
- Who can you be a friend to?



We're moving!



About our **friends David and Debby** I've done my best to get them to pay you a visit, but haven't talked them into it yet. They don't think this is the right time. But there will be a "right time."

A Place for Marrieds

*Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord,
and so does the church that meets at their house.*

1 Cor 16: v19



- As a married couple: who are you greeting warmly?
- And is your home blessing others?

A Place for Singles (Psalm 68:6)

- Paul was single (as was Jesus)

“Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me” - 1 Cor 7:7

- Paul writes in 1 Cor 7:32-35 (MSG)

‘I want you to live as free of complications as possible. When you are unmarried, you are free to concentrate on simply pleasing the Master... The time and energy that married people spend on caring for and nurturing each other, the unmarried can spend on becoming whole and holy instruments of God... All I want is for you to be able to develop a way of life in which you can spend plenty of time together with the Master without a lot of distractions’ (vv.32–35, MSG).

- We have a limited amount of time, energy and money.
- There are many demands in marriage.
- A positive view of singleness – permanent or temp
- It can be fulfilling and liberating – as it was for Jesus.
- **Be secure in your singleness**



A Place for Mothers

- *as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings* – Mat 23:37
- *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*" Prov 22:6
- Who can you Mother?
- Who can you bring under your wing?
- Who are you training?



A Place for Fathers

for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. 1 Cor 4:15-1

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training & instruction of the Lord. Eph 6:4

- My Father
- Be a Role Model
- Who can you Father?

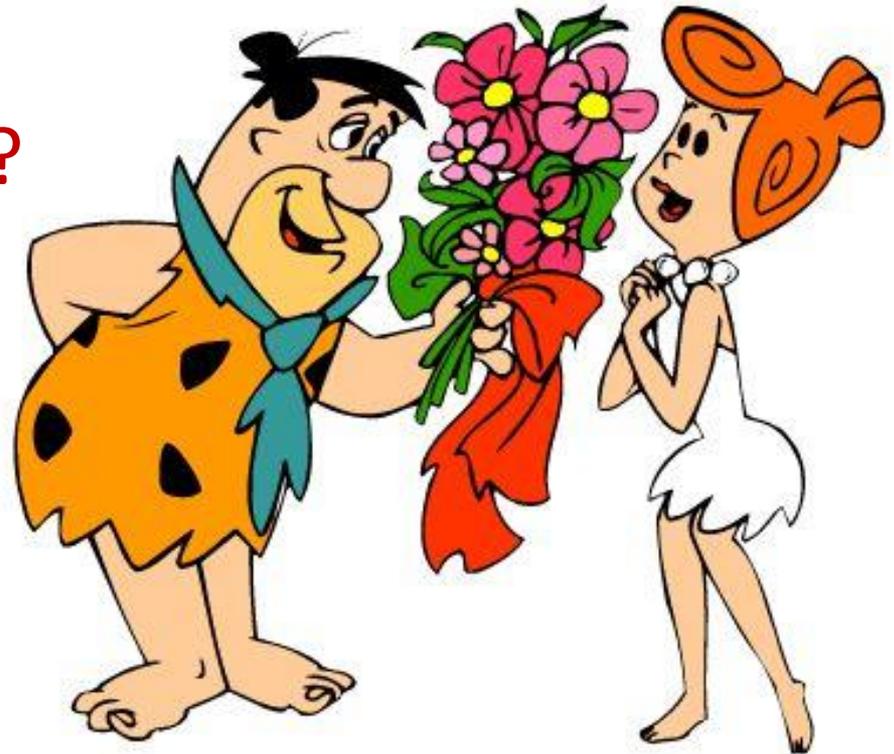


A Place for Role Models

I want you to honour and look up to people like that: companions and workers who show us how to do it, giving us something to aspire to.

1 Cor 16:15-16

- Who can you mentor?
- Who can you learn from?



A Place for Sons and Daughters

Paul describes Timothy as his “son in the Lord”:

For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. 1 Cor 4:17

- Are you Loving & Honouring your Mothers & Fathers (Eph 6:2 , Mat 15:4-6, Deu 5:16 , Exe 20:12)
- Do you have a Spiritual Mother, Father?

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." - 2 Cor 6:18



A Place for Children (with loving Parents)

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3

Know the Love of the Father

Always a Child

Always Secure

Always Learning, Always Open

Do you know you are a Child of God?



A Place for Brothers and Sisters - 1 Cor 16

- Brothers and Sisters in the Lord
 - *I urge you, brothers and sisters-* v15
 - *All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings.* v20
- More than friends
- Be open to correction
- Be open and welcome
- **Who can you be a Brother or Sister to?**



A Place for Families

give special recognition to the family of Stephanas

1 Cor 16:15

Who can you give special recognition to?



A Place for Generations

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD. Psalm 102:18

Your servants' children will have a good place to live and their children will be at home with you -Psalm 102: 28

Jesus is the key for every generation:

Jesus is the same yesterday , today & forever- Heb 13:8

What legacy will you leave?



A Place for Families: Conclusion

- God is our father.
- The church is the family of God.
- The family of the church is made up of:
 - single people like Paul,
 - married couples like Priscilla and Aquilla,
 - and whole households like those of Stephanas.
- Together we make up the family of God
- The church is not an organisation you join;
 - it is a family, where you belong.
- **How are you investing in family?**



Need a Life of Love

OK – but how?

God is Good – God is Love

- ⁷ *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*
- ⁸ *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love – 1 John 4*

Be Encouragers -1 Corinthians 16:13–14

*Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith;
be courageous;
be strong.*

*Do everything in love
(motivated and inspired by God's love for us)*

*'Keep your eyes open.
Hold tight to your convictions,
give it all you've got,
be resolute
and love without stopping' (MSG). (Also Joshua 1:9)*

An encourager both becomes and brings Love

Who can you encourage?





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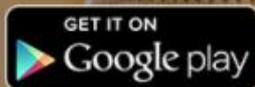


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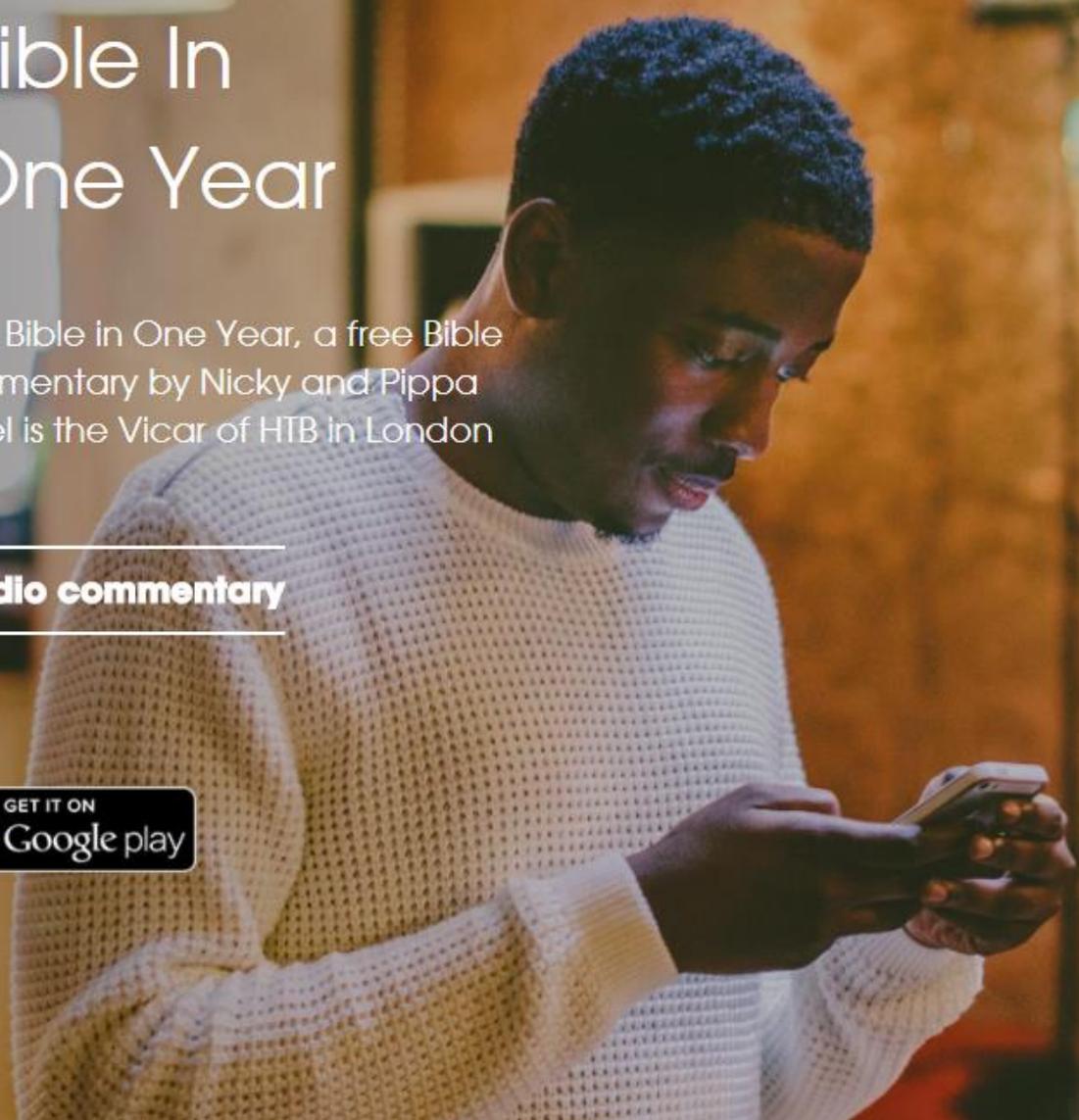
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OK – but how?: Be Transformed and Shine

- *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Cor 3:17-18*
- *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Cor 4:6*
- Look into the face of Jesus, he changes you into his likeness.
- The change is gradual, little by little, 'from one degree of glory to another' (v.18, AMP). Be transformed
- Spend time with a person and become more like them.
- Spend time in His presence to become more like him.
- **Seek His Face & shine with the radiance of God's presence.**

Shine – Philippians 2: 13-16

¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing,

¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”

Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.

How is the grumbling and arguing?

Are you letting God work in you - so you can shine?

Final Thoughts and Prayer

Be Family, Be Fathers and Mothers, Be Home

Make him feel completely at home among you. 1 Cor 16:10

Be Role Models & Learn (Paul and Timothy)

Be Encouragers:

*Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith;
be courageous;
be strong.*

Do everything in love 1 Cor 16:13–14

Be Transformed & Shine

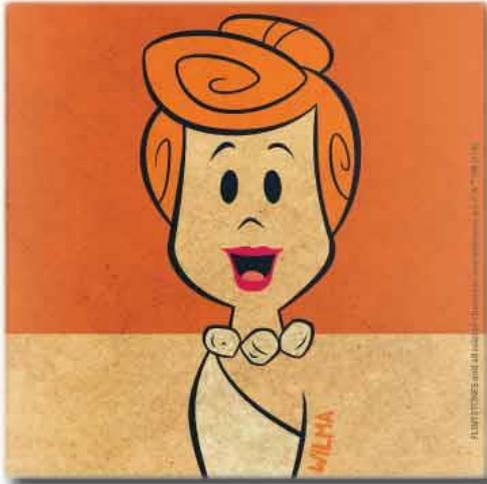
Love: Motive, Message, Means because God is love- 1 John 4



YABBA-DABBA



Dooooo!



Strangers or Family?

- Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10
- Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 3 John 1-5
- Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2