

WELCOME HOME WEEK 2 “FAMILY”

– PATRICK WALTON / 10.29.2017

1st Corinthians 13:1-13

| 1st Peter 2:4-5

INTRODUCTION—*Love God, Love people, It's Just That Easy* :/

WHY A FAMILY?

God created man, not out of loneliness, but out of a desire to share what has always eternally existed within the Godhead—fellowship/family—before God was Creator, He was Father (**Gen. 2:18**).

The tension of the garden is that in the midst of paradise, there's a serpent—an earthly father, who speaks a contrary word into the hearts of sons and daughters (**John 8:37-44**).

Through the family, God is able to display His nature, His power, and His purposes—this is why the devil, from the onset, seeks to strike at the heart of the family (**Gen. 1;2;3**).

OUR CONGREGATION IS NOT “LIKE” A FAMILY

It's a curious thing that after the book of Acts, the word disciple isn't used in the New Testament (*Matthew, Luke, John and Acts*). It gets replaced by the Church's self-identification as a family—as brothers and sisters.

This means that in order to successfully participate in the purposes of God, we have to relate to the body of Christ, not as a business, but a family—not as consumers, but as members.

Ephesians 2:19-22 *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*

Family isn't forged overnight; it takes *time, effort, excitement, pain, disappointment, frustration, love, patience, forgiveness, humility, honesty, trust, conflict, and resolution*.

Paul spoke of his relationship with the Thessalonians as both a mother and a father serving children (**1st Thess. 2:7,11**), and also believed that the Gospel needed someone's life connected to it in order to bring forth mature members.

1st Thessalonians 2:8 *“So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”*

It's my belief that what God is doing in your personal life and how your response to Him today is determining what we as a body are becoming tomorrow.

Charles Spurgeon rightly said, *“Each individual believer is being prepared, polished, and made ready for his place in the temple (family): but Christ's own hand performs the preparation-work. Our prayers and efforts cannot make us ready for heaven, apart from the hand of Jesus who fashioneth our hearts aright.”*

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1st Kings 6:7 (Remix) "The stone blocks for the building of The Temple were dressed at the quarry so that the building site itself was reverently quiet—no noise from hammers and chisels and other iron tools."

1st Peter 2:4-5 "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." Petra =ROCK | Peter/Petros =STONE

Oikodmeo / OIK-OH-DOE-MAY-OH = to build, to construct, to make more able

At IHOPNW, BELONGING is about being a part of a family—being a living stone that God is using to build up this house.

WAYS TO LOVE WELL WITHIN GOD'S FAMILY

The primary challenge we have within God's family is that it's made up of us—our great hope within God's family is that it's overseen by God—this also means that we have to learn how to love well within God's family.

Colossians 3:12-14 "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

Offense, bitterness, and resentment runs deep within God's family. Just as in the natural, God's family is the source of many people's hurt and pain. The problem isn't the hurt or the pain, the problem is how we process the hurt and the pain.

Here are some ways in which we process hurt and pain in sinful ways:

Gossip—slander—accusation—self-preservation—we talk about people and not to people—we walk away from relationships—we don't submit—we aren't correctable—create a secondary offense

In **Matthew 18:15-17** Jesus gives us the three-fold response to working through an issue of offense, hurt, or pain: **(1)** Talk to the person directly **(2)** Get a non-partial witness who doesn't know the situation to sit in and listen **(3)** Have a discussion with the Church leadership/Eldership team.

1st Corinthians 6:1-11

BUILDING HEALTHY PRACTICES WITHIN GOD'S FAMILY

As a ministry, we are working to join the 1st Commandment (God) alongside the 2nd Commandment (others) so that both work together.

Here are some practices that will build up IHOPNW: Work through relationship issues that come up—Don't walk away—Have open ears to listen—Make others feel welcome—Attend regularly—Invite people into your home—Be mindful of where you park out front.