



Pastor Dave Patterson
Part 3: "Called to Belong"
Sermon Small Group Notes

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

WEEK 2 MEMORY VERSE [John 15.13]

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

[1Corinthians 12.27, MSG]

You are Christ's body--that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

FACTS

- GOD FORMED ME FOR HIS FAMILY

[Ephesians 1.5, NLT]

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

- GOD'S FAMILY IS CALLED HIS CHURCH

[1 Timothy 3.14-15, NCV]

I am writing to you...so you will know to live in the family of God. That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.

- I AM CALLED TO BELONG TO HIS CHURCH

[Ephesians 2.19, ICB]

So now you are no longer visitors or strangers. Now you are citizens together with God's holy people. You belong to God's family.

[Psalm 68.6, NLT]

God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

GOD IS BUILDING A HOUSE

[1 Corinthians 3.16, NLT]

- IN GOD'S TEMPLE I AM CONNECTED TO AND SUPPORTED BY OTHERS

[Ephesians 2.21-22, NLT]

In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in The Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

You are the carriers and couriers of God's presence.

CONNECTION VS. ISOLATION

FOUR DANGERS OF AN ISOLATED LIFE

1. A LOSS OF PERSPECTIVE

[Proverbs 27.17, NIV]

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

[Romans 1.12, NIV]

Both of us need help. I can help make your faith strong and you can do the same for me. We need each other.

2. VULNERABILITY TO ATTACK

3. A FEAR OF INTIMACY

4. SELFISHNESS

[Proverbs 18.1]

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

FOUR BENEFITS OF A CONNECTED LIFE

1. A MORE PRODUCTIVE LIFE

[Ecclesiastes 4.9]

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.

2. A LIFE THAT RECOVERS FROM FAILURE

[Ecclesiastes 4.10]

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

3. A LIFE THAT DOES NOT GROW SPIRITUALLY COLD

[Ecclesiastes 4.11]

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

The soul that is alone is like the burning coal that is alone. It will grow colder rather than hotter. --Anonymous

4. A LIFE THAT EXPERIENCES VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL BATTLES

[Ecclesiastes 4.12]

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

The Cord of three strands is a picture of two people who are walking together with Jesus at the center. Jesus' promise to us is this:

[Matthew 18.20, NKJV]

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

FOUR COMMITMENTS TO LIVE LIFE CONNECTED

1. COMMIT TO A LOCAL CHURCH

[Acts 2.47, NKJV]

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

2. COMMIT TO BEING A PART OF A SMALL GROUP

[Acts 20.20, NIV]

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from houses to house.

3. COMMIT TO WORKING THROUGH THE INEVITABLE DIFFICULTIES

[Matthew 18.15, MSG]

If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him--work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. If he won't listen...

4. COMMIT TO STAYING CONNECTED

Destiny has a location!

TO BE CLEAR

There is no Biblical definition of the church being individuals who are independent and isolated. **The Church is:** the body connected, the building built together, the family united, the flock moving together and the branches attached to the vine. Any form of voluntary, independent or isolated Christianity is the result of deception or rebellion and is not God's design. God building His Church = those called out and called together.

WEEK 3 MEMORY VERSE [1 Corinthians 12.19, MSG]

For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Who do you identify with? Do you associate with a particular "tribe?" Are you part of the family of God? How do your relationships define your identity?**
- 2. How does our community in Christ, our "house," serve as a representation of Jesus to the world at large?**
- 3. What are some motivations for isolation? What are some motivations for connection?**
- 4. Why is it such a big deal to be connected to others in the church?**
- 5. Who do you know that needs to receive from the gift of God that is in your life?**