

Everything You Wanted to Know about 'Church' but were Afraid to Ask!

"Why Belong to a Spiritual Family?"

Ephesians 2:11-22

If you belong to Jesus, then "we are family"!

1. Belonging helps you develop healthy relationships.

- 1) Healthy relationships are marked by commitment.
- 2) Healthy relationships are marked by honesty.
- 3) Healthy relationships are marked by vulnerability.
- 4) Healthy relationships are marked by effort.

2. Belonging helps you develop godly character.

- 1) What are those qualities? Read Galatians 5:22-23 for starters!
- 2) Are you more like Jesus today than yesterday?

3. Belonging helps you develop biblical values.

- 1) What are your values—name them one by one!
- 2) What is the ultimate source of your values—where do they come from?

4. Belonging helps you develop a support system.

- 1) No one can "do it all alone." Why try to?
- 2) Everyone wants to belong to a loving family. Why not choose to belong to this one?
- 3) Belonging is good for you, for others and, for God's work in the world.

"How to Belong to this Spiritual Family?"

Key Truths about Jesus' Church

1. The church is a family whose foundation is commitment to Jesus.
2. God expects every believer in Jesus to be a member of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is in contradiction with the biblical witness.

"...you are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (Ephesians 2:19)

4 Essential Elements Make us a Spiritual Family

1. **Salvation:** What God has done for us and our response
 - a. Admit you have sinned.
 - b. Believe in your heart that Jesus is the Risen Savior.

- c. Confess Jesus as the Lord of your life and be baptized by immersion as a symbol of your personal faith and become a fully-devoted disciple.
2. **Statements:** Why we exist as a church
 - a. Our purpose and vision statements
 - b. Our basic beliefs are found in the Bible.
 - c. Our lifestyle practices
 - (1) The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.
 - (2) The autonomy of the local church.
 - (3) The priesthood of every believer.
 - (4) The joy and privilege of tithing and giving.
 - (5) Baptism by immersion.
 - (6) The Spirit-controlled life.
 - (7) The Sharing of the Good News.
3. **Strategy:** How we have and will fulfill our purpose
 - a. FBC History Lesson: Where we have been
 - b. FBC Future Dreams: Where we hope to be
 - c. FBC Today: Where we are now
4. **Structure:** When and where we are fulfilling our purpose
 - a. Our church organization: Staff, Deacons, Committees and Ministry Teams.
 - b. Our Hope is in YOU: Every member a minister doing their ministry!
 - c. Our church seeks to be a fellowship, a family, a living body, and a flock.

"What Are the Keys to a Healthy Spiritual Family?"

Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Peter 2:1-10

1. _____: Communicating with God through Prayer. (James 5:16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. _____: Sharing the Good News of Jesus. Acts 1:8
3. _____: Becoming and Making Disciple-making Disciples (Ephesians 4:12-13)
4. _____: Involving Every Member in a Ministry: Rom. 12:3-8
5. _____: Creating a Contagious Christian Community, living in (1) Charity (2) Harmony (3) Suitably (1 Thess. 5:12-22)
6. _____: Meeting God Frequently through Fresh Encounters of Worship and Praise. Psalm 95 and Psalm 100
7. _____: Choosing a Life of Surrender to God. Romans 12:1-2

Believe, Belong, Become—you can do it!