



PART 2: MAKING ROOM FOR EACH OTHER

Sermon Notes

Text: Romans 12:9-13a

Intro:

We are not just about filling a Church building with people. We are about filling people with God.

John 13:34-35 - loving each other is one of the most practical outworking of the gospel.

Romans 12:1 - sets the context for today's passage

Romans 12:9-13a

1. The Church is a Family (v. 9-10)

"Philos" = brotherly (familial) love

"Philostorgos" = Loving people who are closely related or those who belong to your group

There is a unique kind of love that exists within the Christian community.

Family is God's solution to the loneliness epidemic

According to research done in the US, the two age groups most likely to experience loneliness are young people aged 18-22 and seniors over the age of 72.

Research has shown that belonging—not personal freedom or self-esteem or meaningful work or marriage and kids—is the most fundamental human need beyond food and shelter.

"[Loneliness] is the worst disease any human being can ever experience." ~Mother Teresa

Psalm 68:5-6

Everyone can't know everyone, but everyone must be known.

2. The Church is a Spiritual Family (v. 11-12)

We are a Spiritual family, with spiritual power, and spiritual energy empowering us to serve God with zeal and fervour.

3. The Church is a Generous Family (v. 13)

A real family recognizes that the resources they possess are not merely for the benefit of the individual who produced them.

Worship includes not just the raising of hands, it also includes the extending of hands.

"The primary activity of the church was one-anothering one another"
~Andy Stanley

Conclusion

We are created for community

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. No family is perfect. What are some funny, weird or interesting quirks in your family?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?
3. Loneliness has become an epidemic in western culture. How do you see it impacting yourself or the people around you? What role can the church play in solving this problem?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read John 13:34-35. There is a lot packed into these two verses:
 - Jesus doesn't just *ask* us to love each other, he made it a "command". Can you command someone to love?
 - Of all the things that could identify a Christian, why do you think Jesus says that our love for one another is the best identifier?
 - Jesus says that our love for one another should look like his love for us. Practically speaking, what should love look like in the Christian community?
2. Read Romans 12:1-8, which sets the context for Sunday's sermon text. What stands out to you?
 - What does it mean to be a "living sacrifice" (v. 1)?
 - v. 4-8 talks about diversity within the body of Christ (another metaphor for the church). Do you think you understand how

you fit within the body/family of God? Why or why not? How could you find out?

3. Discuss the metaphor of "Family". How does this metaphor describe the church? In what ways is our church living this out well? How could we do better? What other metaphors does the Bible use for the Church?

Application:

1. How will you make room for someone who is lonely?

Prayer:

- Pray for the lonely to find their place in the family of God

Other Requests

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