



Introduction

Title: Commit to the Family

Text: 1 Timothy 5/Ephesians 4/Romans 8

Theme: Am I my brother's keeper? We are a family of responsible siblings with leaders, members and house rules. We are called to be responsible for each other, entrust ourselves to leadership and invest in the ministry materially. Many of us have difficulty with embracing the church as family, and leadership because of 'family hurt' or 'church hurt' or other types of 'leader hurt'.

Discussion

Read Romans 8:14-17

Adoption is defined as taking and rearing a child from other parents as one's own child, specifically by a formal act. Embracing adoption means accepting you were placed into a family and now have a Father in heaven, an older brother in Christ, and many siblings in the local church.

1. Do you see your adoption by God as gaining a father or gaining a family? Do you treat the other believers in your church as brothers and sisters? What are the obstacles to embracing and accepting that adoption by God is being placed into a family?

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-5 and Hebrews 13:16-17

Expectations of Members	Expectations of Pastors
Time- Making time to gather	Modeling Christ through example
Talent- Serving with your gifts	Preaching the Word
Treasure- Regular, proportional giving	Managing the church and Depending on Christ for vision

2.
 - a. Are you consistent in serving with your time, talent and treasure? How can this group help you to improve?
 - b. Why do some of our commitments to church look more like gym memberships and not family memberships? Why is church membership such a light commitment for some?
 - c. How can we have a greater appreciation for the times when God uses difficult siblings to make us more like Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Being a sister/brother to those in the local church is what it means to be a disciple

3. How are you living out your commitment to "go and make disciples"?

The church is not like a family, it IS a family- Dhati Lewis

4. Is that quote true for you? How does this statement change how you interact with the other members? What are the obstacles to believing that the church is family?

5. Pray as a group for the new believers that were baptized into our church family last Sunday.

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Additional Reading

Additional Scriptures on seeing the church as a family

Romans 12:4-5

Ephesians 2:19-22

1 Corinthians 12:25-26