

Words TO LIVE BY

Part 4: "Church"

INTRODUCTION – Capturing a Vision for The Church

“CHURCH” (Greek- Ekklesia):

A group of people with a _____ purpose

IN OTHER WORDS:

1. The _____ of Christ. *Colossians 1:18-24
Ephesians 4:15-16*
2. The _____ of The Holy Spirit. *1 Corinthians 3:16-17
Ephesians 2:21-22*
3. The Pillar and _____ of The Truth. *1 Timothy 3:15*
4. The _____ of Christ. *Revelation 19:6-7*
5. The _____ of God. *1 Timothy 3:15
Galatians 6:10*

If He Builds It, They Will Come...

The role of building the church belongs to _____.

Our role is make Jesus our _____ and apply His
_____ to our lives.

I DREAMED A DREAM...

HOW CAN WE EXPERIENCE DEEPER COMMUNITY?

1. _____ your expectations
2. Arrive with a _____ focus.
3. Plant some _____.
4. Make _____ a priority.
5. Dream about _____.

CONCLUSION – Guess Who is Coming For Dinner

Revelation 3:20

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP

1. Take some extra time to do a “temperature check” around your group. On a scale of 1 –10 (10 being fantastic) how has your week been going so far?
2. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Review Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35. List all of the attributes of this New Testament church (use a large piece of bristol board or write them all down on a piece of paper). What is your emotional response when you see this list? Do you find this type of community compelling? What are some of the barriers to seeing this kind of community happen?
4. Acts 2: 46 and Revelation 3:20 both refer to table fellowship. Why is this image significant when it comes to understanding our relationship with God and with one another?
5. Read Philippians 2:1-11, John 13:12-17 and John 13:34-35. In what ways does Jesus demonstrate His love for His followers? How can we reflect this same love for others? Discuss some practical ways that we could model and action this in our Home Church.

So WHAT?...

6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26. A principal that we can draw from this passage is that the church is strengthened when everyone contributes something. Model this principal by taking some time next week for everyone to contribute something to the meeting. This could be an encouraging verse, a song on a CD, a short story, a testimony, a dessert or even a piece of art. Brainstorm around some additional ways that people can contribute.
7. Referring back to question 3, consider planning a meal together as a Home Church sometime in the next month. Use this opportunity to share *communion* together.

Paul Morris @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, March 7 / March 14, 2004