

We Are Family

Community is God's desire for us!

1. Community is encouraging.
2. Community is fun.
3. Community attracts the Holy Spirit.
4. Community fosters love.

Jesus lived a life that the disciples saw and desired to have for themselves.

Matthew 6:9-13

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Every time you pray "The Lord's Prayer" you are praying the vision of Jesus Christ. How many times did he tell the disciples to love one another?

It's "Our Father," not "My Father" or "His Father" or "Her Father."

Matthew 6:14-15

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The motivating force of the Kingdom is love. Great Commandment - Love God and Love each other.

1 John 2:9-11

He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

God paints these beautiful word pictures in His Word so that His followers will have a vision of what he wants to accomplish in them.

- Old Testament example - The land that flows with milk and honey.
- Pictures of the Church:
 - Body** - Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Colossians 1
 - Temple or Building** - Ephesians 2, 1 Peter 2
 - Family** - Ephesians 2, Romans 8, Romans 12, 1 John 1, 1 John 3

We may be different but we are family / Living Stones

1 Peter 2:4-5

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:1-2

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,