



## The Church as a Family

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

June 7, 2026

*So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. – Ephesians 2:19*

The church is more than a gathering of like-minded people. Through the gospel, God takes strangers, people who are very different, and makes them family.

### God's Design to Make a Family – Eph. 2:11-22

- I. The Gospel Brings \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11-13)  
Cp. Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:21–22; 1 Peter 2:10
  
- II. The Gospel Breaks Down the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 14-18)  
Cp. Isaiah 58:12; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11
  
- III. The Gospel Makes Us \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.19)  
Cp. Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24–25; Acts 2:42–47
  
- IV. The Gospel Grows Us \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.20-22)  
Cp. Eph. 4:15-16; Colossians 2:19; 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Peter 2:5

### So What ...

If holiness grows ONLY in a \_\_\_\_\_ ... then a church filled with imperfect people becomes a perfect place for the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ to be spread abroad and for family relationship to grow deep and strong as families work through life together.

Family life is too \_\_\_\_\_ to be preserved by the spirit of justice. It is too \_\_\_\_\_ to be maintained by the human will. It often requires a \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from above that allows us to express and receive love that is beyond our greatest \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

### Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE LORD'S TOP PRIORITY—RELATIONSHIPS!

Father God, You emphatically and repeatedly state that our relationships with YOU and with OTHERS are Your top priority. You also clearly state that all principles, laws, and commandments are facets of how our relationships are to be lived out. We demonstrate our love for You and for others by OBEYING Your precepts. Our actions are to be determined by Your truths, not our emotions.

*[Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27; John 14:15, 23 for starters]*

**LORD, OPEN MY EYES AND WORK IN MY HEART. MAY I DEMONSTRATE LOVE.**

Wherever there appears to be discord, may we give thanks that the discord is now in the open...not festering and growing inside of us. May we look at the discord as a prompt from You, Lord, to seek Your will in the relationship. May we base our decisions and actions on Your truths...not our emotions, not our own understanding. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive You and love the way You love. May we be moldable in Your hands as clay is to the potter. Help me not to judge others, but to be their prayer warrior for You to move in their lives. May OUR top priority be You and Your will in relationships, just as it is YOUR top priority.

*[Ps. 51:10; Jer. 18:1-17; Rom. 8:27; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; Matt. 7:1-5 for starters]*

**GOD, HELP US CHANGE INGRAINED AND DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS!**

Lord, I come to You in stillness and ready to listen. Reveal to me where I am closing my eyes, ears, and heart to You. Show me, Lord, where I grieve You. Light my path, Father, to where I must choose Your ways over my thoughts and emotions. May You be glorified in my relationships as You lead and guide me. You say you are in the midst of us wherever two or three are gathered. I pray that we constantly listen for You as we navigate through rough relationships.

*[Matt. 6:33; Romans 14:13; John 13:34; Eph. 4:2-3; James 5:16; 1 John 5:16 for starters]*

Father, I choose to write down all You speak to me about my relationships—where I need to repent, restore, validate. I am accountable to You to live out Your commands. Help me avoid justifying my actions. May You be glorified.

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- I. The Gospel Brings Outsiders Near (vs. 11-13)
Cp. Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:21-22; 1 Peter 2:10
II. The Gospel Breaks Down the Walls Between Us (vs. 14-18)
Cp. Isaiah 58:12; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11
III. The Gospel Makes Us Family (vs.19)
Cp. Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47
IV. The Gospel Grows Us Together (vs.20-22)
Cp. Eph. 4:15-16; Colossians 2:19; 1 Thess. 3:12; 1 Peter 2:5

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If holiness grows ONLY in a messy community ... then a church filled with imperfect people becomes a perfect place for the grace, love, and forgiveness of Christ to be spread abroad and for family relationship to grow deep and strong as families work through life together.

Family life is too intimate to be preserved by the spirit of justice. It is too difficult to be maintained by the human will. It often requires a spiritual exercise that comes from above that allows us to express and receive love that is beyond our greatest ability or understanding.

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Four horizontal lines for writing.