

The Church as Family

Eph. 2:11-22

Intro: Who is your family??

1. The foundation of the family: reconciliation through Christ

- Change of position with God
- Change in our position with one another
- Jesus is the cornerstone of what God is building and forming us into (v.20)...v.14
- he himself is our peace!!! (emphatic 'he')

2. The function of family: relationships refined by love

- God places us in the community of the church to experience the fullness of the reality of the gospel with one another.
- God has placed us in his family by his love (Rom. 5:8 – while we were still sinners, Christ died for the ungodly...us)
- His purpose for redeeming us: to know his love that motivated him to raise and save...that you would be defined by him as a result of what you experience in him.
- In the family of God we are to live with and toward one another in ways that promote the gospel...experience and demonstration of reconciliation we have with God and with one another through Christ.
- Opportunities to apply the Gospel

3. The Fruit of the family: radical self-denial displayed to the world

- Family connection

- Family commitment

- A growing family

- Ephesians 3:10

- Our greatest areas of attack:
 - i.

 - ii.

4. The future of the church: readiness with the Gospel

- Being a family for all *ages*