



**The Church as Family Series: Part 2: Family Life, John 3:16-18**  
**Mike Halpin ~ February 15, 2015**

**Intro—** What difference in your life does membership in the family of God make?

- Would someone else find life in the body worth having, based on your experience?
- The local Church makes for a very poor club— but, it is the best place in all the world to experience God.

**I. We share our stuff with one another—** Book Resource: *When the Church was Family, Joe Hellerman*

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:16-18 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

James 2:14-16 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

Acts 2:44-46 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Acts 5:32-35 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. 34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 6:1-Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.....

Galatians 2:9-10 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.

1 Timothy 5:3, 9 Honor widows who are widows indeed.....9 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man,

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8-9

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## II. We share our hearts with one another—

*The gospel is a call to relationship. Truth informs our relationships, but the relationships aren't primarily about information.*

John 15:12 - 15 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. 8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.....11 ..... encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children

*In all the world the Church should be the place where we can honestly share our faults as well as our triumphs and know it's safe to do so.*

## III. Family is about more than me, the wife, and the kids.

Hellerman, "When the Church Was Family" Excerpts—

Some of us aren't living out life like this in the family of God because:

- We're living like a loner—
- Some of us are investing in other groups as our surrogate families—

*If the Church family isn't a place you're excited to live; if it's not a family you're excited to invite others to join, it's not the family as God intends it, or we're not the family members God intends us to be.*