

# FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY

*Based on Rick Warren's*

## ***The Purpose Driven Life – Part 3***

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*Sermon Outline Notes*

Knowing God's purpose for your life may or may not increase its length, but it will certainly transform its value.

To love God, you must also love His family.

*"God is the one who made all things, and all things are for His glory. He wanted to have many children share His glory..." Hebrews 2:10a (NCV)*

*"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)*

The Bible – every chapter and verse of it – is the story of God gathering His children. You were made to last forever. So is the family you joined when you accepted Christ.

Your physical family is important. That's where you learn to be human, but your spiritual family teaches you how to be a child of God.

*"Love your spiritual family!" 1 Peter 2:17b (Msg)*

### **MY 2<sup>nd</sup> PURPOSE IN LIFE IS FELLOWSHIP.**

**Worship** is loving God. **Fellowship** is loving God's family.

*"The person who loves God must also love other believers." 1 John 4:21 (GW)*

*"I'm writing... so you'll know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church..." 1 Timothy 3:14-15 (NCV)*

The church is not a place you go to. The church is a family you belong to.

## FOUR LEVELS OF FELLOWSHIP

### **LEVEL 1: MEMBERSHIP: CHOOSING TO BELONG**

*"...You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)*

A Christian without a church family is an orphan.

*"In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5 (NIV)*

### **LEVEL 2: FRIENDSHIP: LEARNING TO SHARE**

*"All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other." Acts 2:44 (LB)*

True friendship is not luck, it's choice. It's choosing to spend time with another person, time enough to know them.

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Instead, let us encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:25 (TEV)*

### **LEVEL 3: PARTNERSHIP: DOING MY PART**

God did not bring you to Sugar Creek to sit and soak in some spiritual spa. God brought you here to serve. God wants to make a difference in your life, but He also wants to make a difference through your life.

*"We are partners working together for God." 1 Corinthians 3:9a (TEV)*

### **LEVEL 4: KINSHIP: LOVING BELIEVERS LIKE FAMILY**

*"...they were like family to each other." Acts 2:42a (CEV)*

*"Be devoted to each other like a loving family." Romans 12:10 (GW)*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)*

*"We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16 (NLT)*

This is the **deepest** level of fellowship; being willing to sacrifice ourselves for each other as we would for our closest relatives and loved ones.

*"Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples." John 13:35 (LB)*