

October 13, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church

Text: Romans 12:9-13

Message Series: Church: A Disciple-Making Community

Week 9: Caring as Family (Part 2)

Introduction:

1. We've been working together to see the church as what it is called to be: a disciple-making community.
 - a. That means that as a community of Christ-followers, we have one job – to glorify God by making disciples. According to Matthew 4:19 a disciple is someone that...
 - i. Has a relationship with Jesus through belief and repentance: "Follow Me"
 - ii. Is being transformed by Jesus: "And I will make you"
 - iii. And is living on mission with Jesus: "Fishers of men"
2. We looked at something Jesus taught in Matthew 11:28-30 and when we take into account the context and the audience that Jesus was speaking to it helps us understand the text much better. Jesus was a Jewish Rabbi and He called 12 men to follow Him as disciples. And 1st century Jewish discipleship was very simple.

Jewish Rabbi's had a "Yoke" that included their...

1. **Way:** practices or behaviors their disciples would observe and live out
2. **Truth:** teaching or interpretation of the Law their disciples would hear and take on
 - a. **The Way of Jesus** – throughout all 4 gospels you will find Jesus doing only 3 things in addition to eating and sleeping.
 - i. **Living on Mission** – going into spaces to redeem unredeemed things – in His teaching, healing, ministering, feeding, bringing hope. But He would

take time away from mission to spend time in biblical community. We talked about Living on Mission last week.

- ii. **Spending time in Biblical Community** – There was no conflict in the heart of Jesus to not heal everyone and teach everyone in order to spend time with those that were His true family. As important as this is, Jesus did take time away from mission and biblical community in order to draw near to, or spend time with the Father.

- iii. **Drawing near to the Father**

b. The Truth of Jesus

- i. The Word of God
- ii. As His life and teaching
- iii. Fulfilled the Law & Prophets

- 3. Last week we started this deeper look at the priority of Jesus to spend time in Biblical community.

We use the phrase “caring as family.”

- 4. The hope was to help us better understand that God’s design is transformation through deep relationships within the faith family.

- 5. You have the notes from last week and we will add to that today by talking about the practical things that we need to do as we pursue God’s design for the church

1. Jesus’ Command is to... - John 13:34-35

A. Love One Another

- B. As He Has Loved Us** – that raises to the question, “How has Jesus loved us?” – washing the feet of those who would deny knowing us or even betray us.

2. Our Natural Tendency is to... - Genesis 3:8-13

A. Cover up, hide out, or blame others

B. For our weaknesses, sin, or struggles

3. God's Design is to... 1 Thess 5:14; Hebrews 10:23-25

A. Share, heal, and overcome

B. Through the relationships within the faith family

4. This Requires Us to... Romans 12:9-13

A. Be vulnerable with our mess – “let love be genuine” – “do not lie to each other” (no being fake) Col. 3:9

- 1) This word translated “genuine” in the ESV is a word that would mean that we don’t put on a mask
- 2) The same word is translated “sincere” in other translations and means “no wax”
- 3) Fake pottery trying to be passed off as genuine would have the cracks filled with wax, but when held up to the light the cracks could be seen.
- 4) Transparency vs vulnerability (genuineness)
- 5) This doesn’t mean everyone needs to know or should know, but there should be someone that knows

B. Be faithful to relationships – “Love with brotherly affection”

- 1) Show up and keep showing up
- 2) Showing honor to each other – this involves humility and putting the other person first

C. Be involved in the lives of others – serving, rejoicing, enduring trials, in prayer, meeting needs, welcoming in

- 1) Through everything that can happen in life, build relationships that can journey with you through it
- 2) And when they don’t or can’t, show grace. You don’t know what they’re carrying.
- 3) One of the worst things we could do for you is to try to have the staff do all these things for you.
- 4) It can’t be done and it diminishes the gifts of the body and cripples disciple-making
- 5) So what we can do is present you with environments to build relationships.
- 6) Relationships that give you opportunity to be vulnerable, faithful, and involved in the lives of others.

- 7) Sometimes that will seem easy and work well and sometimes it will be difficult and won't work as well
- 8) In all of this, press into Jesus.
- 9) This is what we will talk about this in depth next week, but I'll say it quickly for those who may not be here.
- 10) What the Scriptures call you to and what God desires of you, are beyond you
- 11) You will need to gain your identity, strength, compassion, and wisdom from time alone with Jesus.
- 12) You are a vital part of helping advance the Kingdom of God by making disciples and that transformation happens through deep relationships within the faith family.

Closing

- 1. Are you willing to risk being vulnerable?
 - a. Not with anyone, but with someone
 - b. If not, why not? Your fear may be justified because of a past experience
- 2. Who do you call when life is at its best or worst? Who calls you?
 - a. Not having deep relationships within the faith family doesn't mean that you won't have difficulty and struggles. You just won't have the God designed support system to help you through them.
 - b. We can be scared about what this may cost you or require of you, or we can be thankful that God in His gracious kindness has provided everything you need to deal with your difficulty and strengthen you through your struggles.
- 3. Will you pray about helping build a culture of deep relationships within this faith family?

Let's pray and then you stand and sing and reflect on what God has said to you.