

## WHY YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED A CHURCH FAMILY

How the Church Meets Your Deepest Needs

Rick Warren

### WHAT IS A CHURCH?

Not a building! Not an institution!

A church is NOT a *place* I go to, nor an *event* I attend

#### IT IS A

*"Those who believed Peter were baptized—about three thousand in all! They joined with the other believers in regular attendance at the apostles' teaching sessions and at the Communion services. . . . They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness."* Acts 2:41-42, 46 (TLB)

A Church is a group of baptized believers who've joined together in a commitment to help each other fulfill God's five purposes for their lives.

### WHY IS THE CHURCH THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP ON EARTH?

#### 1. THE CHURCH IS

*"All honor to God, . . . for it is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family."*

1 Peter 1:3 (TLB)

*"That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth."*

1 Timothy 3:15 (NCV)

#### 2. THE CHURCH IS

*"Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us."* Ephesians 1:4 (TLB)

*"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!"*

Ephesians 1:5 (TLB)

#### 3. THE CHURCH IS

*"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Ephesians 3:10-11 (NIV)

*"Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!"* Ephesians 3:10 (MSG)

#### 4. JESUS

*"Christ loved the church and gave himself for it . . . He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be pure and without fault."* Ephesians 5:25, 27 (NCV)

#### 5. ONLY THE CHURCH

*"Glory belongs to God in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time and eternity!"*  
Ephesians 3:21 (GW)

*"We will be with the Lord forever."* 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)

#### 6. ONLY THE CHURCH

*"Jesus: 'I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.'*  
Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

#### 7. ONLY THE CHURCH

*"Through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."* Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

#### 8. BELONGING TO GOD'S CHURCH IS

*"God . . . has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family."* 1 Peter 1:3 (TLB)

*"Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?"* 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT)

### WHAT IS A "PURPOSE-DRIVEN" CHURCH?

Drive = to guide, control, or direct

*"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*  
Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

### A FEW OF THE MANY BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH FAMILY

#### 1. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME

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#### 2. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME

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#### 3. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME

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#### 4. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME

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#### 5. A CHURCH FAMILY WILL HELP ME

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## YOU NEED OTHERS FOR SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

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*"It is not good for man to be alone."* Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

*"We are many people, but in Christ we are all one body. We are the parts of that body, and each part belongs to all the others."* Romans 12:5 (ERV)

### WHY HAVING A CHURCH FAMILY IS SO IMPORTANT

#### 1. I NEED OTHERS

*"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him."* Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

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

#### • COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO

*"When you gather for worship, each one of you be prepared with something that will be useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight. . . . Take your turn, no one person taking over. Then . . . you all learn from each other."* 1 Corinthians 14:30-31 (MSG)

*"As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."*

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

*"Open your homes to each other without complaining."* 1 Peter 4:9 (GNT)

#### 2. I NEED OTHERS

*"God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing."* Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

*"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together."* Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NCV)

#### • COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO

*"Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith."* Galatians 6:10 (MSG)

#### 3. I NEED OTHERS

*"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."*

Philippians 2:4 (GNT)

*"Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord's followers should."*

Hebrews 13:1 (CEV)

*"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."* Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

#### • COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO

*"If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble."* Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NLT)

#### 4. I NEED OTHERS

*"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other."*

1 Peter 3:8 (TLB)

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together."* 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

#### • COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO

*"Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep."*

Romans 12:15 (GNT)

*"Encourage each other and strengthen one another."*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GW)

#### 5. I NEED OTHERS

*"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

John 13:35 (NLT)

*"The Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them."*

2 Timothy 1:7 (TLB)

#### • GOD'S ANSWER TO FEAR IS

*"You are working together and are struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news."* Philippians 1:27 (CEV)

### Next Step

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## SHARING YOUR HOPE WITH OTHERS

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### INSTRUCTIONS FROM JESUS:

- “Wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News.” Mark 16:15 (GW)
- “You will be my witnesses.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)
- “I have been given all authority . . . Therefore, go make disciples.”  
Matthew 28:18-19 (NLT)
- “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Matthew 4:19 (NCV)

“We are Christ’s ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20 (TLB)

MY JOB IN GOD’S FAMILY IS TO \_\_\_\_\_

### THINGS TO REMEMBER THAT GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE!

#### 1. EVERYBODY I MEET \_\_\_\_\_!

“He has planted eternity in the human heart.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

“He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.”

2 Corinthians 5:15 (MSG)

Jesus: “I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” John 10:10 (MSG)

#### 2. EVERYBODY HAS \_\_\_\_\_!

“None of us can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (CEV)

#### 3. MOST PEOPLE DON’T REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY BELIEVE AND THEY OFTEN \_\_\_\_\_

“God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace.” 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NCV)

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32 (NLT)

#### 4. ANYONE CAN BE SAVED IF I LISTEN FOR THE KEY TO THEIR HEART. THAT KEY IS THEIR \_\_\_\_\_

“All fall short of God’s glorious ideal.” Romans 3:23 (TLB)

#### 5. PEOPLE HAVE EXCUSES BUT WE HAVE \_\_\_\_\_

“The Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord.”

2 Timothy 1:7-8 (TLB)

Jesus: “This will be your chance to tell about your faith. Don’t worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will give you the wisdom to know what to say.”

Luke 21:13-15 (CEV)

### HOW CAN I SHARE MY HOPE?

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_!

“Live such good lives among the pagans . . . they may see your good deeds and glorify.” 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

“Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13 (NIV)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_!

“Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have, but answer in a gentle way and with respect.” 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NCV)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_!

“The righteous person is a guide to his friend.” Proverbs 12:26 (GNT)

“Friends always show their love.” Proverbs 17:17 (GNT)

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_!

“Listen before you answer. If you don’t, you are being stupid and insulting.”  
Proverbs 18:13 (GNT)

“A person’s thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out.” Proverbs 20:5 (GNT)

#### 5. \_\_\_\_\_!

“I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!” John 9:25 (NLT)

#### 6. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Go out into the country lanes and out behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (TLB)*

*“Many people will see this and worship him. Then they will trust the Lord.”*  
Psalm 40:3 (NCV)

### **WHY DO WE SHARE OUR HOPE?**

1. Everybody needs what Jesus offers! (Matthew 11:28-30)
2. Jesus commands us to do it. (Mark 8:38)
3. We're grateful to God & we love people. (2 Corinthians 5:14)
4. We will be rewarded in heaven. (Proverbs 11:30)

### **Next Steps**

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## HOW WORSHIPING WITH OTHERS CHANGES YOU

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### WHAT IS WORSHIP?

#### FOR WHO HE IS, WHAT HE'S DONE, WHAT HE'S SAID, AND WHAT HE'S PROMISED TO DO!

Jesus: "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' " Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

### WHY DO WE EXPRESS OUR LOVE TO GOD?

#### 1. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NCV)

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

#### 2. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

David: "These things did not really come from me and my people. Everything comes from you; we have given you back what you gave us."

1 Chronicles 29:14 (NCV)

#### 3. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

David: "I tried to understand all this, but it was too hard for me to see until I went to the Temple of God. Then I understood what will happen to them."

Psalm 73:16-17 (NCV)

#### 4. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

"You, the Lord God, keep my lamp burning and turn darkness to light. You help me defeat armies and capture cities. Your way is perfect, Lord, and your word is correct. You are a shield for those who run to you for help. . . . You give me strength and guide me right." Psalm 18:28-32 (CEV)

### WHAT KIND OF WORSHIP DOES GOD LOVE?

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"Hezekiah . . . dedicated his life to serving God. Whatever he did for the worship in God's temple, he did wholeheartedly, and he succeeded." 2 Chronicles 31:21 (GW)

### GOD HATES INSINCERE, HEARTLESS WORSHIP

"The Lord says, 'These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.' " Isaiah 29:13 (NLT)

Jesus: "True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." John 4:23 (NIV)

IMPORTANT: \_\_\_\_\_ IS NOT WORSHIP

### HOW TO TELL GOD YOU LOVE HIM (WAYS TO WORSHIP)

#### 1. BY \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD'S WORD

"Gather all the people: the men, women, children, and foreigners living in your towns so everyone can listen and learn to respect the LORD and carefully obey everything in this law." Deuteronomy 31:12 (NCV)

Jesus: "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:17 (NIV)

Taking notes is part of worship!

#### 2. BY \_\_\_\_\_ OUR WHOLE HEARTS

"Celebrate GOD. Sing together—everyone! All of you with honest hearts, raise the roof!" Psalm 32:11 (MSG)

#### 3. BY \_\_\_\_\_ TOGETHER IN PRAYER

"They all joined together constantly in prayer." Acts 1:14 (NIV)

"I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 (NCV)

#### 4. BY \_\_\_\_\_ TOGETHER

"When we ask the Lord's blessing upon our drinking from the cup of wine at the Lord's Table, this means, doesn't it, that all who drink it are sharing together the blessing of Christ's blood? And when we break off pieces of the bread from the loaf to eat there together, this shows that we are sharing together in the benefits of his body." 1 Corinthians 10:16 (TLB)

#### 5. BY \_\_\_\_\_

*“Because of God’s great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.” Romans 12:1 (GNT)*

**6. BY \_\_\_\_\_ SOME OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US**

*“On every Lord’s Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.” 1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB)*

**7. BY \_\_\_\_\_ PUBLICLY DECLARE OUR FAITH**

*“Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ.”*

*Colossians 2:12 (MSG)*

*“In him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Ephesians 2:22 (NIV)*

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