

As for Me and MY House:
Week 4: Serving the Lord with Our Homes
Exciting FCOG, Pastor Peter Smith 06-22-14

“The believers spent their time listening to the teaching of the apostles. They shared everything with each other. They ate together and prayed together... All the believers stayed together and shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those who needed it. The believers shared a common purpose, and every day they spent much of their time together in the Temple area. They also ate together in their homes. They were happy to share their food and ate with joyful hearts. The believers praised God and were respected by all the people. More and more people were being saved every day, and the Lord was adding them to their group.”

-Acts 2:42-47, ERV

Here's what they NT life looked like:

- Bible learning
- Cared for each other
- Ate meals together
- Prayed together
- Public worship and
- Home worship / fellowship

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.”

– Acts 5:42

What happened when households served the Lord:

1. People came to know Jesus

“More and more people were being saved every day...”

2. Real caring took place

Acts 2: “they sold their land and the things they owned...and gave it to those who needed it.”

Acts 4: “No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.”

How's it going waiting for our gov't to help you with things?! Why not try things God's way!

3. Homes became places of serving

- The early church met in each other's homes
- They fellowshipped / hung out there
- They ate there

- They prayed there...
- What are you doing in your home for the Lord??

The natural outcome of ‘Doing Life Together’ is people come to Jesus!

I want to ask you for a ‘shift’ in your thinking today:

- To move from ‘Sunday’ worship to ‘daily’ worship
- From ‘going to church’ to ‘we are’ the church
- From doing church ‘here’ (FCOG) to doing church ‘there’ (our homes)
- A shift!

Example of Geoff’s Church, The Well

What can happen if I open my home to others?

- My family could come to know Jesus
- I will make friends
- I will have support...my needs will get met

Isn’t this what we all want and need?

Think about it. When church happens ‘here’ at FCOG, it’s safe:

- We can pretend to be who we are not
- We can be anonymous
- We have less accountability
- We have less interaction with others

When church happens in a home:

- We drop our guard (this is my house / me: take it or leave it!)
- We get more personal / real
- We develop meaningful relationships
(some of us are est. relationships and are in each other’s homes...it makes a difference, doesn’t it?! Imagine if you added the component of bible study and prayer...)
- Out of relationships come real caring, nurturing, support

The Bible in the NT teaches us to be devoted to one another

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;”
-Romans 12:10, NASV

The question is: How should we be devoted?

- In our culture, one day a week? Come on, how often are you interacting with each other at FCOG?

- Should it be daily?
- How will we know if we do not interact beyond Sunday?
- It's a real challenge!!!!

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” – Hebrews 3:11

What does daily mean?

1. Face to face Visiting
2. Phone calls...
3. Facebook....
4. Texting...
5. Email...
6. There are many ways for Christians to support each other. But to what extent?

In Colossians Paul uses these expressions in Chapter 3,

“bear with each other” “Love each other” “forgive each other” “teach each other” “counsel each other with all wisdom...” (11-17) But when?

Hebrews answers the question **When?** In 3:13 says,

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

Question is: How? The early church met daily, was in each other’s home, and it was spreading because of this (daily those who were being saved).

Our church’s influence has been limited in the world by being a once a week or twice a week activity. We need to develop a lifestyle of daily being the church.

The real church eats together, visits sick members, calls each other when we are gone. The real church shares their lives with each other. The real church is not limited by this building, because it is a lifestyle.

Want to grow? Want more from in? Want more in your spiritual journey?

- Invite someone over for lunch
- Help put up someone’s fence.
- Mow a neighbor’s yard
- Send a birthday card.
- Let’s not just be part of church on Sunday but let’s become a NT church!

Five things that will have to change in our minds and practices for church to be part of our ‘homes’:

1. Our Mindset (church is something we do, a place we go)
2. Our Practices (the daily things we talked about)
3. Our Priorities (others vs. my family)
4. Our Expectations (church blesses me vs. I need to bless others)
5. Our Involvement (I will be part of the lives of others)

Remember, the greatest commandment is not Thou shall go to church but to “Love God”, “Love People” and then to “Make Disciples”. May God help us to be open to His leading us in these directions.