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How would you describe the church?

Club, a group of people who have something in common
Shop, you have to go once a week get what you need avoid other shoppers get in get out
Gym, pay your membership and get the benefits
Business, there are goals structure, plans for growth
Charity, social impact

Family

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Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Mark 3:31 -35

This may not shock you like the original hearers or many cultures today, because our view of family, the value placed on family in our culture is very low compared to then.

The responsibility of raising the children didn't just lay with the parents or childcare or school it was the family.

The elderly and sick weren't taken off to hospital or a care home the whole family cared for them.

1. What Jesus is saying is the church is family

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We can be challenged by what family is from ...

those of you who's culture isn't British

those who are single

who is my emergency contact, where do we spend Christmas

2. Jesus is saying is my family is the church

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"The church is a family.
The church is our family"

God knew us before the creation of the world, Jeremiah tells us that God knew you while you were in your mother's womb. He knew that being alone wasn't good. He created us to do life together, to be in his family.

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he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

Ephesians 1:5

At CCB we don't want just Sunday Christians, we want a community, a family of believers that stand together. A family that are committed to each other, together standing firm on the Word and Spirit, who are on mission together, serving each other and the world around us.

So if our value is to be in community and church community means family,

What does Gods' family Look like?

Gods family is...

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1. Inclusive and Diverse

Acts 1:8 and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world...that whosoever

Our aim is for the best community possible, but the danger is that in aiming for great community we become exclusive and small, where everyone is like me.

Gods family is meant to be massive, inclusive. Where everyone is welcome and where every type of person is represented.

Revelation 7:9 there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

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2. Authentic and Safe

Titus 1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.

Ephesians 4:15 Speaking the truth in love

Colossians 3:9 Don't lie to each other

We are aiming not just a great community but an authentic community, where we are not fake but real

Family is somewhere where we can truly be who we are without feeling the need to pretend.

Its why we argue and the kids seem to only have tantrums at home, because we know that how ever much we push the boundaries we are safe and love is guaranteed.

Accountability: not everyone knows everything about you but there are people who know where you struggle, where you are weak.

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Who really knows you?

If the church is our we should be intimated without it being sexual

Your my brother, sister, father mother, son, daughter

Being venerable is scary because it feels like we are giving someone ammunition to hurt us with. But that should not be so with us.

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Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens
Ephesians 4:32 Be compassionate with one another
James 4:11 Don't slander one another
James 5:9 Don't grumble against each other

Like a child in a caring family who knows whether they are good or bad they are still loved.

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3. Committed and Humble

We don't treat the church like a club that we drop when we get board or find one that meets our needs better

In the economy of this world we give more honour to those with more money someone (whenever is a teenager or 20 something ever asked their opinion on world events? Never unless they are famous)

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“In the economy of family, we give special honour to those who are older and extra care for those who are young”

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Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another
1 Corin 12:25 Have equal concern for each other

We love each other like Christ not expecting to be served but humble our selves and commit to serving Christ by serving each other.

Matt's Story of Carl

What Carl wasn't just being a good Samaritan to a young student
No, he was treating him like a son.

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1 Thess 4:18 Encourage one another
1 Thess. 5:11 Build up each other
Galatians 5:13 Serve one another
James 5:16 Pray for each other
Galatians 6:10 let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The love God has for me does not depend on my ability, he loves me he is committed me, he humbled himself for me to make me his family.

The love I have for my kids, my commitment to them does not depend on their ability, I gladly humble myself for them (clean up, sick, change beds, cook for them) because they are my family.

The love we have for each other, our commitment to each other, our willingness to humble ourselves before one another, shouldn't be down to what they can offer us, but because God has brought us together as his family. As the wider church but even more so as Christ church.

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4. Patient and Forgiving

We all do the wrong things from time to time, we put our priorities in the wrong places and even when we say we have learnt from our mistakes we still make them again and again.

“Godly Family makes a habit of forgiveness and learning patients”

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Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Matthew 18:22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

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5. Eats and Worships together

Mark 2:15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house

Act 2:46,47 They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.

Families that eat together:

Have better relationships

Are healthier

Get better grades

Are happier

Are less stressed

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Eating together is so important but the bible also described coming to God as feasting at his table

Psalm 36:8 They feast on the abundance of your house;

John 4:32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Matthew 18:20 O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. Psalm 34:3

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Hebrews 10:25 Don’t give up meeting with each other

Family works when we spend time together

As Gods family we are called to eat together

Eat steak and veg, round each other’s tables, together.

And feast round Gods table. together