

# The Christian Arsenal

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## FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY

The Purpose Driven Life

Dr. Ken Culver

### Part 3

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

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

“Love your spiritual family!” 1 Pet. 2:17b (Msg)

#### WHY ARE WE TO LOVE OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY?

- Your physical family is going to eventually fall apart.
- It makes us more like God because God is love.
- God wants His children to learn to get along.
- It's practice for eternity.

“To live above with the saints we love – oh that will be glory. But to live below with the saints we know – that that's another story.”

**MY 2<sup>nd</sup> PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO BE A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY.**

#### **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 Tim. 3:14-15 (NCV)

The Church is a Family!

It is not a building

It is not an institution.

It is not an organization.

It is not a club.

Church is not a place you go – it is a family you belong to.

#### **FOUR LEVELS OF FELLOWSHIP**

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## 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.” Eph. 2:19 (LB)  
The Christian life is not just a matter of believing – It is a matter of belonging.

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.” Rom. 12:5 (NIV)

There is a symbol of the fact that we belong together – a picture that God gives us – It is called “baptism.”

“This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized. Each of us is now a part of His resurrection Body.” 1 Cor. 12:13 (Msg)

“That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.” Rom. 6:3 (Msg)

## LEVEL 2: FRIENDSHIP: LEARNING TO SHARE

You were created in God's image so you were made for relationships.

Life is not a solo act.

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

### NOTICE 2 THINGS:

- You can't develop friendships without meeting together.
- You can't develop friendships without sharing.

### SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SHARE?

- The Bible says we're to share our experiences.

“People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron.” Prov. 27:17 (TEV)

- The Bible says we're to share our homes.

“Open your homes to each other.” 1 Peter 4:9 (NCV)

- The Bible says we're to share our problems.

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“Share each other's troubles and problems.” Gal. 6:2 (NLT)

When you share a joy it is doubled. When you share a problem it is cut in half.

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Instead, let us encourage one another...” Heb. 10:25 (TEV)

The primary purpose of a group is to encourage each other.

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

Partnership is realizing and doing my part that I've got a contribution to make; that the family of God needs you.

“We are partners working together for God.” 1 Cor. 3:9a (TEV)

“The whole Body is fitted together perfectly. 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.” Eph. 4:16 (NLT)

Quote from Mother Teresa: “Every person I bathe, every person I bandage, I imagine seeing the face of Jesus and I do it for Him.”

“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to Me.”  
Matt. 25:40 (NRSV)

## **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.” Rom. 12:10 (GW)

Greek word koinonia – The basic root meaning is being as committed to each other as we are to Jesus Christ.

That is saying I'm at the level of willing to sacrifice for you.

“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)

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

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When everybody else walks out – you walk in. When you're there for someone in the tough times.

Friends, this is what life is all about, loving God and learning to love each other. If you miss this, you have missed the purpose of your life and I pity you. Because life is not about accomplishments, it is about relationships.

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

A secular historian said: "Behold how they love each other".

You see what we want W.C.C. to be known for is not our size, not our sermons, not our singing, not our strategy, not our buildings, but our love. We want people to say, "That's the place where they love each other."

LISTEN TO THESE THREE VERSES:

"Anyone who does not love other Christians does not belong to God." I John 3:10

"Those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have never seen." I John 4:20

"But if we love our Christian brothers, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life." I John 3:14

The greatest privilege you will ever be offered in life is the privilege of being a part of God's family.

"You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:26 (NLT)