

## **The Church – Pt. 1**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:5-12**

### **The Church is a Family**

#### **Getting Started**

What is the church? How do you understand its function, mission, and/or organization? What is its role in the life of the believer?

The sermon mentioned three ways the church is like a family – a child, a mother, a father. Explore those deeper as you work through the following questions.

The Church is...

A Child (1 Thess. 2:5-7a)

1. How can we be childlike with the church, rather than childish?
2. What kinds of masks do we wear when we gather with the church? How does that inhibit or limit our life in God's family?
3. How can just being ourselves in church help us grow in and through the church? See also James 5:16
4. Are you isolated in church? If so, why? If not, why not? How might we help others to become less isolated?

## A Loving Mother (1 Thess. 2:7b-10)

1. Was there someone(s) in particular that purposefully shared their life with you? What was the result?
2. How are you sharing your life in and with the church?
3. How do you share your time? Your energy? Your attention?
4. Do you have ideas about how to share but haven't taken steps to apply them?

## A Concerned Father (2:11, 12)

1. How are you encouraging in the church? How are you comforting? How are you urging?
2. In what ways do you need encouraging? Comforting? Urging?
3. How can we help others walk in a manner worthy of God?

## Final Reflection

How can we help each other apply these truths our lives this week?

How can we grow our love for the church?\*

How does properly understanding the church help us love it?

Close in prayer.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:5-12 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. <sup>6</sup> We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. <sup>7</sup> Instead, we were like young children<sup>[a]</sup> among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup> so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. <sup>9</sup> Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

### James 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

### \*Additional Verses on the Church

#### Matt 16:18

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter,<sup>[b]</sup> and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades<sup>[c]</sup> will not overcome it.

#### Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 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.

Eph. 5:25

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

1 Tim. 3:14, 15

<sup>14</sup> Although I hope to come to you soon, ***I am writing you these instructions so that,*** <sup>15</sup> if I am delayed, ***you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God,*** the pillar and foundation of the truth.