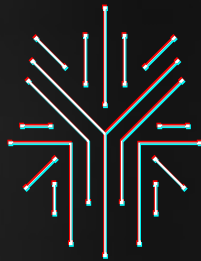




KNOWING WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

IDENTITY

& WHAT TO DO IN A CONFUSED WORLD.



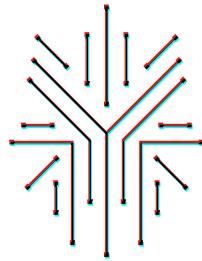
A SIX - WEEK STUDY



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A SIX - WEEK STUDY

IDENTITY

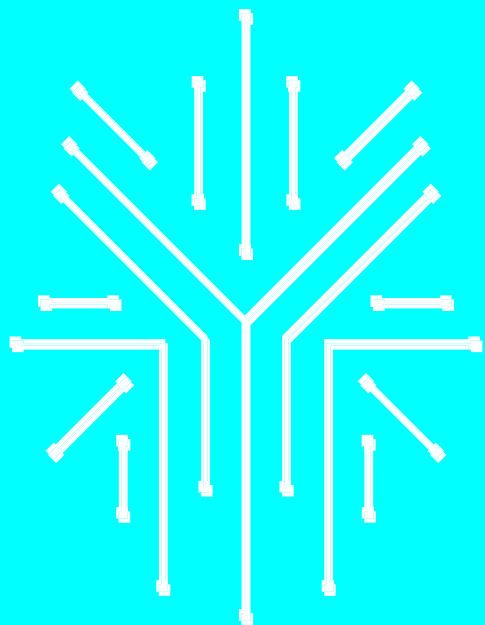
Knowing Who You Are In Christ & What to Do In a Confused World

Two Cities Church

twocitieschurch.net

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DISCIPLES OF JESUS ARE

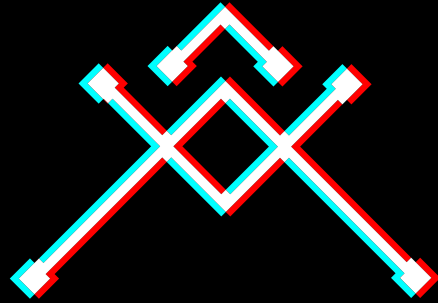
WORSHIPPERS

FAMILY

WITNESSES

STEWARDS

SERVANTS



FAMILY

EMBRACES THE LIFESTYLE
OF THE LOCAL CHURCH
AS THEIR FAMILY



The church is more than just a building.

We tend to view church as somewhere we go, not something we are. As we come to understand what it means to follow Jesus and have our identities found in him, getting our view of the church right is so important. It's been said before that the church is not a place "where," but a people "who." Central to understanding the church as a people is seeing those who follow Jesus as family. This means that one of the key aspects of our identities as followers and children of God is that we are family members of one another. At Two Cities, we believe the family member of God lives with the local church as family. We believe that our relationship to God means our responsibility to one another. The way we gauge this in our lives in our own church family is by asking are we cut off, are we casual, or are we committed. The follower of Christ is committed to his church because they are family with one another.



READ GALATIANS 3:27 - 4:7

Q: Spend a few moments writing out the differences between a slave and a son.



The gospel brings us into God's forever family; we become sons and daughters who are fully known and deeply loved by their perfect Father. This means that followers of Jesus share in the joys of a spiritual family. We aren't just fellow church members. We are now brothers and sisters whom God has redeemed through his Son.

Here is the beautiful truth: in God's family, it isn't about biological DNA. The blood running through our veins isn't the blood that binds us. Instead, the blood running down from Calvary's cross is the blood that unites us, makes us new, cleanses us, and secures our place in the family of God. This is why the Church — the collection of Jesus followers — lives like family.

If the Church truly is family, we must act like it. Our identity as brothers and sisters is not something we can simply believe in theory. This identity is central to the Church flourishing and being what God calls us to be. This familial identity must be practiced and put on display to the world around us. It must be central to how we think about our lives.

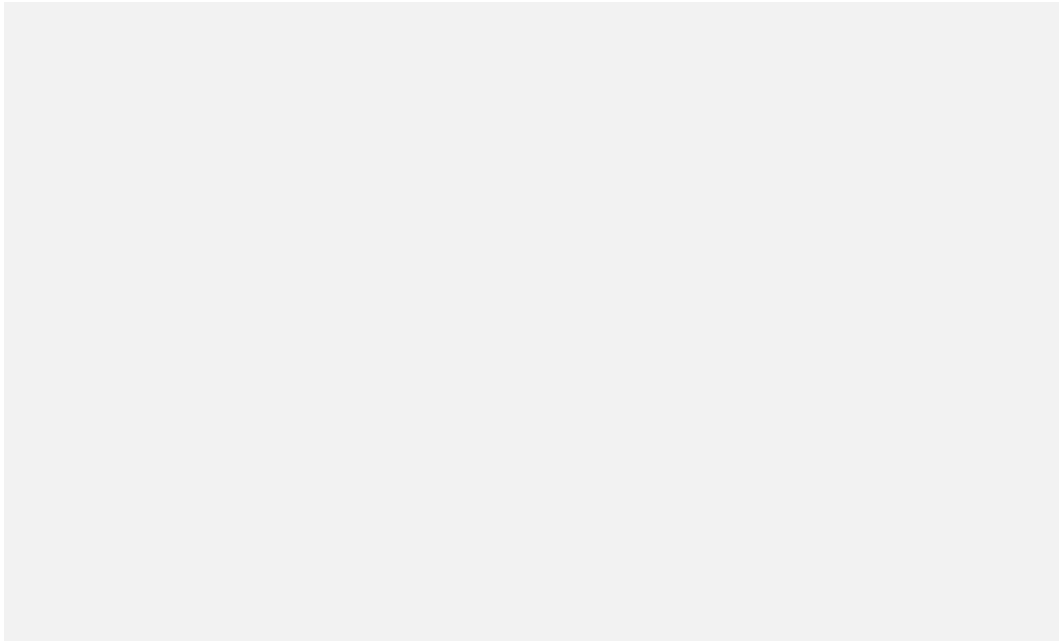
Sadly, not everyone has an earthly example to look to for what it means to be a healthy family that loves and cares for one another. And that's OK. God's Word provides us with a glimpse into how the early church served one another and lived out their calling as brothers and sisters of Jesus.



READ ACTS 2:42-47

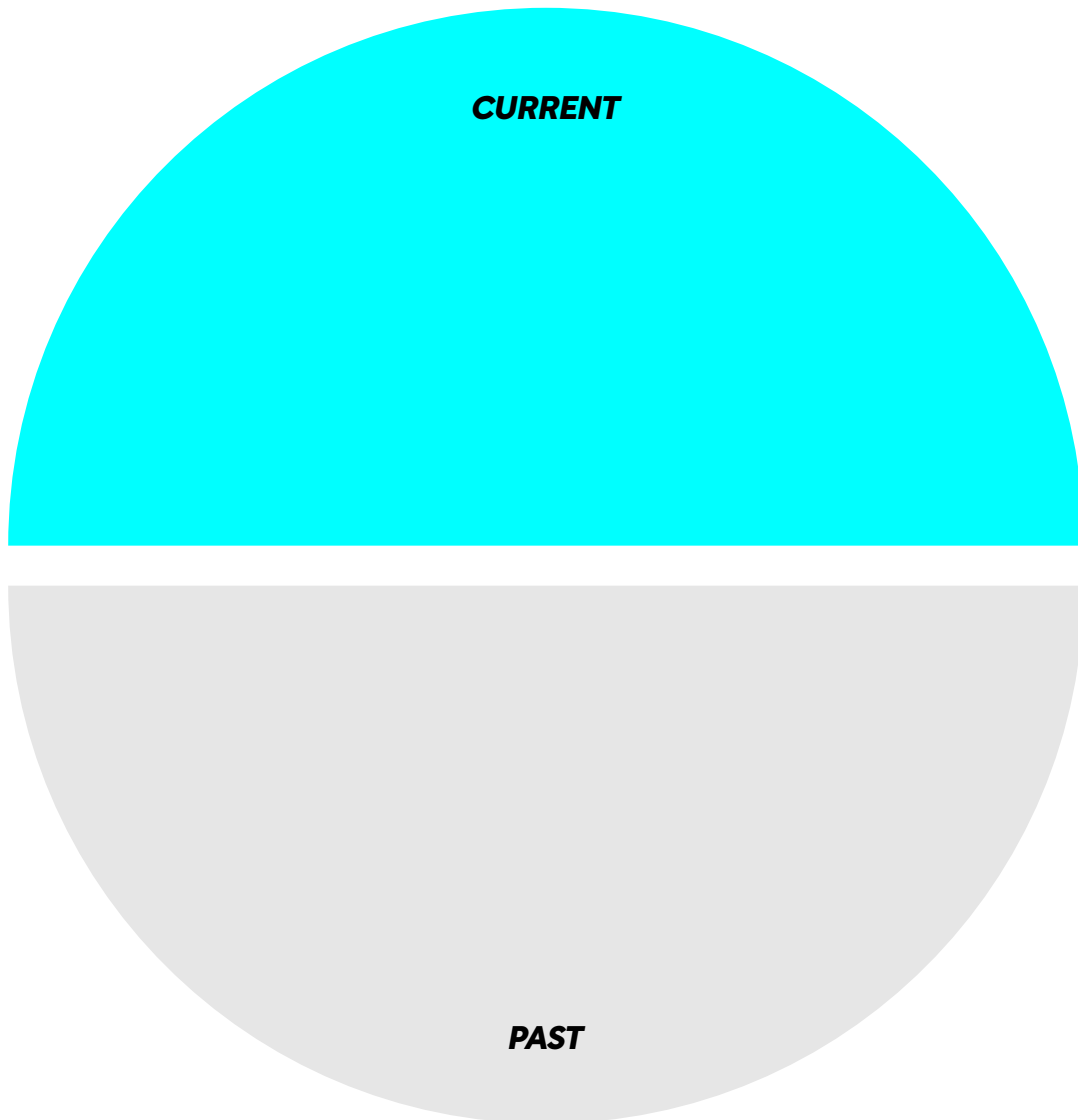
Q: When looking at the early church, what observations can you make about their interactions?

Q: *What have you experienced in the Church that makes it difficult for the Church to live like this?*



UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH

How has your understanding of the Church transformed over time? Use single words for how you would describe the Church now and how you have in the past.



Q: What life experiences have negatively affected the way you view the Church?

Q: How important do you think the Church is to your daily walk with Jesus?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DON'T NEED IT CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT

Q: What practical changes take place when we see the Church first as a family, not an institution?

God intends for the Church – our identity as family – to be vital in our devotion to Christ. The writer of Proverbs explains that it is for our safety that we surround ourselves with other believers who give us advice and help us through life (see Proverbs 11:14). The writer of Psalm 19 explains that we need help identifying hidden sin in our lives (see Psalm 19:12). The church gives encouragement. The church gives support. The church bears the weight of life when life gets too heavy. The follower of Jesus lives in connection to their spiritual family, not in isolation.



FIGHTING SIN TOGETHER

One of the ways the family of God serves each other is by protecting one another from the attacks of the enemy. Just as brothers and sisters of biological families stand up to defend and protect each other from harm, so too must the family of God do this for one another. The more we trust one another, the more we are able to share openly and honestly about our insecurities, failures, flaws, and doubts.

We are a part of a family for a reason. We need one another. We can't follow Jesus alone. God didn't design us that way. He designed us for life together within the family – his family.



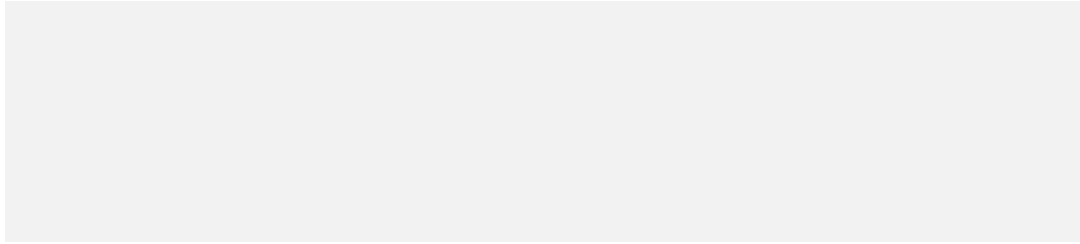
READ HEBREWS 3:12-13 / GALATIANS 6:1-2

Q: How do these verses reveal our need for the family of God?



READ JAMES 5:16 / 1 JOHN 1:9

Q: Why can the family of God be open and honest about their battles with sin?



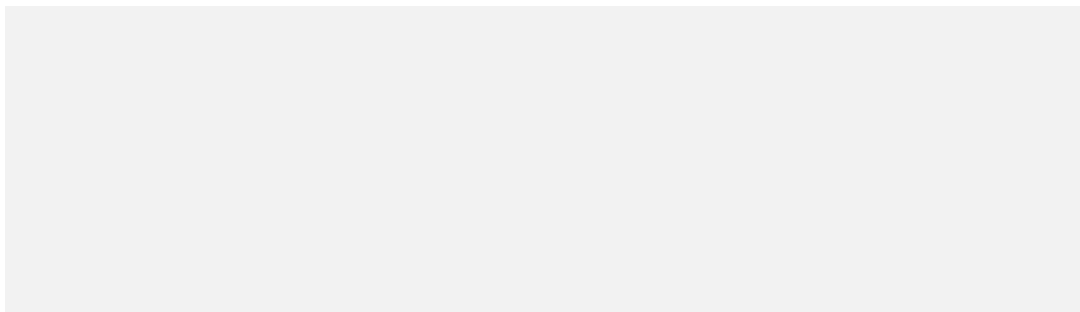
GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES

As God's children, we represent him to the world around us. This is a key mission of the church: the people of God reflecting the beauty of God in order to share the gospel of God with the world that has yet to experience the goodness of God. We mentioned this earlier, but we reflect God's beauty when we show forgiveness, grace, mercy, compassion, and sacrifice. This is what it means to represent God to a lost world.



READ JOHN 17:14-19 / EPHESIANS 4:1-6

Q: Describe the ways in which the family of God is set apart from the world.



One way to practice this at Two Cities is to join a Community Group. If you're already in a community group but have yet to consider membership at the Two Cities, prayerfully consider what that would look like for you. Ask your group for more information and come back next week with questions. This could be a special time becoming a part of God's family at Two Cities!



THE CHURCH: GOD'S "PLAN A"

*The Scriptures are clear: God's plan
for reaching the lost is through the lives of his children.*

J O H N 1 7 : 1 8

GOD SENT JESUS. GOD NOW SENDS US.

J O H N 1 3 : 3 5

GOD LOVED US. WE NOW LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

A C T S 2 : 4 7

**GOD SAVED US. HE WILL SAVE OTHERS
THROUGH US.**

