

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – February 27- March 4

Doing Life Together – I Belong

MONDAY: Acts 20:11, Hebrews 10:25

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:42

OBSERVATION Luke wrote that the first followers of Jesus were committed to each other, to the mission of the church, to the common meal, and to the praying which allows for the work of the church to go forward. God expects you, and me, to commit to the same things today. He hasn't changed. He hasn't 'updated' his expectations. God is so wonderfully fair and has maintained, from the beginning, the ideals for the church- for his church.

TUESDAY: 2 Corinthians 4:5, Romans 14:7-9, Romans 12:1-2

KEY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 8:5

OBSERVATION: You and I are called to belong, not just to believe. Even in Eden, God said that it was not good for people to be alone. We are created for community, but have trouble with the idea because of human hurts we have experienced. However, those hurts must not stand in the way of our doing what God declares we need to be doing. However, the Bible knows nothing of solitary saints or Christians living isolated from other believers and deprived of fellowship. God never intended for our faith to be a 'private' faith. In God's family, you are connected to every other believer, and we will belong to each other for eternity!

WEDNESDAY: Ro.12.4-5, 1 Cor.6.15

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:5

OBSERVATION: C.S. Lewis wrote that the word 'membership' is of Christian origin, but the world has emptied it of its original meaning. We know that Costco offers special privileges to its members. Members of various organizations get special benefits. American Express members get Air Miles on our purchases, if we have that card. It's like this, so the idea of membership has been cheapened. However, to Paul, being a 'member' of the church meant being a vital organ of a living body, an indispensable, interconnected part of the body of Christ.

THURSDAY: Luke 11:34, Ephesians 4:16, Colossians 3:15

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12.12-27

OBSERVATION: In order for the organs to fulfill their purpose, they must be connected to your body. The same is true for you as part of Christ's Body. You were created for a specific role, but you will miss this second purpose of your life if you're not attached to a living, local church. You discover your role in life through your relationships with others.

FRIDAY: 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Corinthians 8:1

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 5.25

OBSERVATION: This is very important to realize. You cannot say you love Jesus while not loving his wife. You don't treat friends or acquaintances that way and you certainly cannot treat Jesus that way. 1 Pet.2.17- God tells us to love your spiritual family. Sadly, many Christians use the church but don't love it.

SATURDAY: Exodus 28:3, Ephesians 4:12

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:7

OBSERVATION: Your local fellowship- here, for you and me- is the place God designed for you to discover, develop, and use your gifts. You may also have a wider ministry, but that is IN ADDITION to your service in a local body. Jesus has not promised to build your ministry; he has promised to build his church, and local congregations are 'understood' in the NT record about the church. Do not downplay the importance of the church, but recognize that all serving is to begin here. All won't occur here, but we need to provide lots of opportunities to go out from here. When we 'get it' as far as Jesus and membership in the family of God, we are given energy and this energy needs to be directed, first, in the efforts of the church. We need to be listening to God to hear what opportunities for service he is giving us.