



Equip

prepared to serve together

Sunday, October 18, 2009
Week #1
“Mystery”



Welcome to our "EQUIP" series. For six weeks we will be discussing three primary passages in the Bible, Ephesians 4:1-16, 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. The reason for this series is not so we can try to get people to fill "ministry holes" in our church programs. That is not the reason. The purpose of this series comes from what I think is a critical and urgent need in our church family, that we need to understand clearly and be committed to the very unique relationship God has called us to have with one another. It is essential that we embrace how important we are to one another.

My dream would be that when we are done this journey together our relationships with each other would be more meaningful and that we would have a renewed focus on what it means to be prepared to serve one another.

You are loved,



November 7, 2005 – 12:09 p.m.

I'm a Christian But I Don't Need No Church!

I'm a Christian but I'm saying Goodbye to all churches. I don't need one.

Is there anything wrong with that? Can't I worship God in my room? Why do people think I'm not a serious Christian because I've chosen to stop going to church? Why must they try to drag me to church? Is it compulsory? Won't God answer my prayers in my room or would I go to hell because I have no church?

I just want to follow Jesus. Somebody tell me what's wrong with that?



Prayer Matters

Some people think of a church as a building (a place you go to) or an institution. The Bible teaches us that the church is people, followers of Jesus Christ. How would you respond to the preceding internet post based on the understanding of church as a building /institution versus the church being people?

For Next Week

Consider this question in preparation for next week,

“What is ministry and who does it?”

Take a look at some of these “one another” passages in the New Testament. What do these verses tell you?

John 13:34-35

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:16

Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 5:21



This weeks message entitled “Mystery” reminded us that when Jesus died on the cross he did something really unique. He placed us in relationship with each other (Eph. 3:4-6). We are “members together of one body”, that is we are in an interdependent relationship with each other. The Apostle Paul describes this well in 1 Corinthians 12.

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

In your own words,
How are followers of Jesus to relate to one another?

What are the stated benefits of this and the consequences of not doing this?

Potential obstacles to meaningful relationships with others.
Circle the ones that may apply to you.

- The busyness of life that keeps relationships distant and casual
- Friendships that are purely activity and happiness oriented
- Avoidance of close relationships because they are scary or messy
- Over committed to church activities with no real connection with people
- Seeking relationships that meet my needs. The tendency to receive rather than give in relationships.
- A private, independent, just “me and God” approach to the Christian life
- Other _____

Why do you think we have a hard time building meaningful relationships with others?

To what extent do you believe our home group is effectively accomplishing the kind of relationships that are necessary in Ephesians 4:11-16?

Are we “speaking the truth in love” to each other?

What must change in order for this to happen or improve?

