



## 2024: True Identity True Community

Greg Wendschlag January 7, 2024

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### Mission Marker: Family – Who I am with

*“Once you were not a people, but now you are the **people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Pet. 2:10*

1. The family of God is accepting.

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Jn. 13:34*

The church must pursue that:

- You will be loved deeply.
- You will be accepted completely.
- You will be forgiven continually.

*Acceptance is not license. Acceptance is love in action.*

2. The aim of the family is to grow to maturity.

*“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:11-13*

To grow to maturity, we must accept:

- The authority of God’s structure.
- The accountability to each other.
- The responsibility for each other.

*A person cannot attain the “whole measure of the fullness of God” apart from the family.*

3. The Family of God is forever.

*“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” 1 Thess. 4:16-17*

Forever family practices:

- Reject the consumer mentality.
- Relationships require intentional investment.
- Realize that conflict is part of growing together.

*It is not up to us to go find a group of believers that is more like us but to invest in a group of believers until we become more like Jesus.*

### Next Steps

- If there is anyone in the church you cannot accept or have not forgiven, pray that the Lord will give you His mind for that person. Then go to #2!
- Invite someone to spend time with you this week.
- Join a Group InCommon growth group.