

General Topics :: Dialogue in church this morning

Dialogue in church this morning - posted by docs (), on: 2018/4/29 14:50

Our service took a different tact this morning as was announced to the congregation a few days ago. Instead of a regular time of worship and a sermon, which no one has been complaining about, the service was opened up for member participation to discuss I Corinthians 14:26.

"How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." (I Corinthians 14:26)

The scripture was read and it was asked what do you think this scripture means. It was an attempt at a dialogue - a conversation if you will. What should it mean for us as a corporate body? Does it have any bearing on how we have been doing our Sunday services? What does the word edification actually mean and how do we know it is happening? What occurs when this edification takes place? Following agreed upon rules when speaking, a open microphone was provided for members to ask questions and make comments. It worked pretty well as many members made comments and the usual sermon was put aside for this one Sunday.

I commented that I saw nothing in this verse of the preacher or teaching carrying the whole weight of the service by their sermon or teaching and perhaps pastors have become too weighted down each Sunday thinking their word has to make or make or break the service. If more participated and exercised their gifts perhaps we could ease the load on church leaders. The need for each joint and member to supply was commented upon and emphasized. If services were opened up a bit more it would also necessitate a greater amount of discipline from those sharing. Would they be sharing just to hear themselves or would they be dedicated to not tooting their own horn but seeking to edify the body itself. Overseers and elders should be free to keep a sane and dignified amount of order but let all things (all gift be shared) be done for EDIFICATION OF THE BODY. It was stressed and noted that the body with each joint supplying edifies itself through love (from Ephesians). None of what was shared was a call to do away with the preaching of the word but how can a time for the word and full member participation go together? Why would it be a bad thing of someone asked a question during the sermon and the preacher could address the question before going on? Many think dialogue with many members sharing between the full body at corporate gatherings seems to have been more the norm for the early church than many modern formal structures and programs. Is relying upon the Holy Spirit for a bit more spontaneity each service such a bad thing?

How can time be set aside for regular preaching of the word yet also for allowing the Holy Spirit to manifest gifts as He will and directs? Under the direction of our leaders, we are trying to ponder and work through these things so we had a dialogue about this in our service this morning instead of the regular format. We did leave "edified."

What is the best way for I Corinthians 14:26 to be practiced?

Re: Dialogue in church this morning - posted by amajesticone (), on: 2018/4/29 15:53

Oh, David, this is wonderful! A very BIG subject, but know that there are sources to glean from for "helps" and encouragement in meeting under the Headship of Christ, and letting the Holy Spirit live through the members of His Body to one another. The Cross is central, and learning to prefer one another and yield to one another takes time. I.E. the "talker" needs to learn how to "not dominate" (or be quiet) so the "quieter ones" can learn how to function and be a joint of supply, to o. Hundreds of thousands of Christians meet this way and no two meetings are the same just like no two early churches were the same. Laying down the whole organized way has got to go in order for the Body to learn how to function "organically" and "spontaneously." "Organized" is a hindrance rather than a help, but....maybe....you may have to do that initially until all control can be given to the Head - Christ. It can be a bit scary :) It shouldn't be but initially it can be. And there may be blood ... but The Life overcomes.

This is a great website that I think would be a great help:

Christcenteredchristianity.com

I look forward to your updates!

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Mary

Re: Dialogue in church this morning - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2018/4/29 16:05

I remember at a church I attended in the past, they did not have 'Sunday School'. No, they had Foundations Class which was a 12 week program of study of key Bible doctrines which are central to New Testament living. The program was carefully crafted by the leadership (mostly the pastor) so as to avoid any doctrinal errors. You see, the leadership of that church did not want a regular Sunday School where appointed teachers taught what they felt the Bible says. No, if that teacher's interpretation of scripture deviated from what the pastor felt it should be, it was error and we can't risk any chance for error being propagated at the church.

So good luck with open-mic 'sharing' of teaching. I am also reminded of several church members who during small groups would drone on and on about stuff and would get diverted down rabbit trails and never would end their monologue on their own. Someone else would have to say, "That's good Charlie. It reminds me of the time the Lord..." so as to break a way from Charlie.

-Daniel

Re: , on: 2018/4/29 16:10

When I read that verse it always seems to indicate a small group, certainly not a mega church. The other verses limiting prophecies and tongues/interpretations (to two or at most three per category while other prophets JUDGE what is said) seem to only corroborate this. Lastly, here's a potential theological bombshell: what if the need for prophetic utterance and glossolalia had more to do with most 1st century Christians not owning their own Bibles---and therefore the need for information that they - not we - could not readily obtain? ALL things pertaining to life and godliness are found in the Scriptures. If I never heard another prophecy or tongue it would be no loss to me. Most of the modern variety that I have encountered is false and powerless.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/4/29 16:13

Telling the "microphone hogs" to relinquish the mike is surely one of the most vital "growing pains" that would have to occur.

And like Daniel said, how much tolerance would there be for divergent views on certain topics? That is another growing pain and perhaps with the leading of the HS these issues level out over time.

I am curious how churches that operate this way, which of course is how they should operate, deal with these sorts of practical issues.

Most people cannot imagine such a service so they might have to see it in operation first.

Re: , on: 2018/4/29 18:38

Now, if anyone knows me, they will know that this for me is the most important crisis facing the Body of Christ. It really helps to know a little bit about the history of the early church and what it looked like. For the most part it would be in houses or for special occasions if there was more than one house gathering in a town or city, they would come together in an open field, especially if someone like Paul was coming. The gathering was just that, and there was a meal. Breaking bread meant just that, it did not mean a communion wafer and a ritualized affair. People were actually together, hanging out, singing hymns, sharing, giving testimony, asking for prayer. This thing called "the church service," is something that morphed out of that. Bottom line, it really was not that complicated, the most important aspect of the gathering was that the Holy Spirit was there, Jesus was preeminent.

Can we change this now? Not in any meaningful way. Maybe your part of a cell group or home group that your church has. Just keep in mind, that is actually church. The time is coming soon when the enemy will tear down every religious building in the world that will not bow down to him, only then I believe will the Body of Christ return to its roots, by necessity.

P.S Take the so called Pastor out of the churches in America and those who for so long have been mere spectators and not participators, would sit and not have any idea what to do.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by Lysa (), on: 2018/4/29 19:09

Quote:
-----by docs
Is relying upon the Holy Spirit for a bit more spontaneity each service such a bad thing?

How can time be set aside for regular preaching of the word yet also for allowing the Holy Spirit to manifest gifts as He will and directs? Under the direction of our leaders, we are trying to ponder and work through these things so we had a dialogue about this in our service this morning instead of the regular format. We did leave "edified."

What is the best way for I Corinthians 14:26 to be practiced?

When you start yielding to the Holy Spirit, you WILL get push-back from many people, including the one who started this discussion.

How can time be set aside for this? You said it yourself, spontaneity. I've found the Holy Spirit doesn't do things on a regular basis... except show up!! :)

Getting directions from us or anyone else takes away all the fun of learning to follow Him! My sheep know my voice and none other will the follow!

God bless and He is forever faithful!
Lisa

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/4/29 19:16

//Maybe your part of a cell group or home group that your church has. Just keep in mind, that is actually church.//

This is very true- the most authentic church experiences I have had has been with relatively small prayer groups.

Re: Dialogue in church this morning - posted by twayneb (), on: 2018/4/30 11:58

Quote:
----- What is the best way for I Corinthians 14:26 to be practiced?

I think the way you described it is awesome. We had exactly the same thing happen in our fellowship on Wednesday evening. We had one lady who sat on one side and wept the entire service as God used what was being shared by different members of the body to convict her and convince her that He loved her and desired to know her. She came forward and totally surrendered her life to the Lord. There was a radical change in her life. Praise God!!!

I think though that we have to be careful about making too many generalizations. The work of the apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher, and evangelist is to bring the body to the full grown maturity of a man of God. Obviously we need to teach the body, and obviously the body coming together in one meeting is probably the best way to do that. Remember the guy that fell asleep during Paul's all night sermon? Obviously the New Testament pattern is not strictly 1 Cor. 14:26 in the sense that all of our services should look like this.

I think 1 Cor. 14:26 deals primarily with the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the body. Paul was dealing with a body that was seeing the manifestation of the gifts, but was not understanding the proper way to order those gifts. In the preceding verses, he deals with some of their mistakes. Then he says, "How should it be then? When you come together and everyone has something to contribute, it should be done with edification in mind. He then goes on to show the proper order so that all might be edified. I don't think he was so much giving a model for a service, as much as he was giving a statement of motive behind what we do and the reason that order is necessary.

My understanding anyway.

Awesome to see God moving in your fellowship. It is exciting. I am seeing God move in ways that I have been reading in the Bible lately, and it is really revving me up spiritually.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2018/4/30 12:00

Quote:
----- P.S Take the so called Pastor out of the churches in America and those who for so long have been mere spectators and not participants, would sit and not have any idea what to do.

Unfortunately, you are probably right. I remember hearing that at Azusa street, the people would come in and just naturally begin singing and praying. No one "started" the service. Wonder what that would look like for us today?

Re: Dialogue in church this morning - posted by Lysa (), on: 2018/4/30 12:52

Years ago, I had a pastor that drove a long way to church and he always said, "If I'm not here on time, start without me." No one would. I was young and would tell the music leader, he said start without him, let's go. And they'd just look at me like I didn't know what I was doing.

Even with clear direction, they wouldn't do it. Whenever he was late, he would walk in and look so disappointed that no one had started without him.

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/4/30 17:02

It's very easy to accomplish this. Just gather together with a small group and sing, pray, read Scripture and give testimonies and ask God to send a prophetic word in brotherly love to build up the body. Share a meal afterwards. I go to "regular" church services and have a weekly meeting in my home. Every time we meet in my home, there is a sweetness and powerful presence of the Holy Spirit with some prophetic words, including knowledge and visions. There is a lot of love in the room for each other that is hard to express in the ordered church service and this is the key to having a fullness of the Spirit. Pursue love in the meeting and earnestly desire the Spiritual gifts, especially prophesy. The regular meetings I attend are also edifying but no where near as satisfying to the soul as the weekly small meetings.

I'm not sure that pastors are the actual problem. Scripturally, elders are the right leadership of the local body. The problem is that to protect the flock, everyone assumes control of the meeting by the professionals and order is the key to avoiding abuse. What it actually does is grieve the Spirit by despising prophesy. Kicking the Spirit out of the meeting by grieving Him through "despising" or not trusting the Spirit to control His own meeting is the result.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/4/30 18:59

//powerful presence of the Holy Spirit with some prophetic words, including knowledge and visions.//

Hey Robert-

It might be helpful to some if you could explain further or give example(s) of this.

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/4/30 20:33

An example of brotherly love leading to a prophetic word in an actual meeting:

Prior to and during every worship meeting I pray intensely that God would give me and others in our group a word to bless and encourage someone. During prayer in one meeting I got a picture in my mind of a stack of stones, Ebenezer stones like the ones Israel constructed during their journey to remind them of God's goodness to them "thus far". I got the distinct impression from the Holy Spirit that there was one or more people in the room who had a stack of stones of remembrance in their minds of bad things that had happened to them in their lives that they were constantly remembering, dwelling on and living by instead of stones of God's goodness to them. When I shared this with the group, a first time vis

itor from France started crying and explained the word was for him. He shared that he had suffered many struggles in his life that had captured his mind and his faith and that he was spiritually trapped by the memory of these events. In fact, he confessed that these stones (testimonies) had almost become idols to him. We prayed for him and over him and he started repenting to God about not releasing these things and in not rather having stones of remembrance for all God's goodness in his life. Just one example of many by others and I think I've personally only had a few visions or words of knowledge like this so it isn't some strange habit of envisioning pictures, etc. At the risk of sounding foolish about such things, I share this story because I would be twice this foolish if helped a brother or sister draw closer to God.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/4/30 21:30

Excellent! thanks for sharing that!

Re: , on: 2018/5/1 0:12

Lisa that made me smile, I can just hear you say "he said start without him," and then nobody would. We have been taught for centuries how to depend on the one man at the front, not biblical but definitely ingrained into almost every church and most denominations.

Oh how I would love the problem that the Corinthian church had in their midst and Paul had to correct. Everybody had a tongue or a word or a spiritual song or a prophecy. Paul wrote and told them two or three of this and two or three of that and let there be order in all of it. You can take a wild man, full of life, and tone down his behavior, but what can you do with a dead man? What would Paul write to the average church today on this very topic?bro Frank

Re: , on: 2018/5/1 0:25

Excellent testimony of how your gatherings are in your house Robert. Also the word that you shared and was embraced by the Frenchman was an excellent example of the work of the Holy Spirit. Your right, its not complicated. One word builds upon another and the Holy Spirit is given His proper place, and a Holy Spirit filled elder would know how to work as the Holy Spirit leads. You said.....

"I'm not sure that pastors are the actual problem. Scripturally, elders are the right leadership of the local body."

The problem with that brother is that in a vast majority of churches, the pastor picks the elder and in so many cases the elder is not picked for being full of the Holy Spirit but often times because he is a successful business man or large tither or already prominent in some secular way. In my experience the highest qualification for elders in so many churches is their loyalty, not to God, but to the pastor. Yes men can never be good elders but it is the way of the world.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2018/5/1 9:09

Been reading "In the Shadow of the Almighty" by Elizebeth Elliot (really is actually mostly journal entries and letters by Jim Elliot). He struggled with this as well. He wanted churches to carry the NT model for fellowship and leadership, and actually practiced it to some degree. It was going well. Then the congregation voted to forgo it so they could have a service. It was frustrating to him, which is totally understandable.

I have experienced these types of house churches before, but the issue that I struggled with there was that there were no Elders, no deacons--basically no leadership at all.

I often wonder what the middle of the pendulum swing would look like--clear structure and leadership, given over to service and the leading of the Spirit in such a way that while the format is not rigid, the structure Paul called for to the Corinthians, in Timothy, and in Titus are in place and functioning as intended. That every single word that was said was motivated to build up others. That we submit to the leading of the elders for the sake of Christ and His bride AND deliver words for the sake of Christ and His bride.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/5/1 9:56

A major issue in churches like the one I currently attend is that there are two services so automatically there is a limiting of what the HS might want to do in the 1st service.

Re: , on: 2018/5/1 11:59

Hi Havok,

I think part of the problem is that the vast majority of churches not only do not practice the gifts but do not even believe in them, so there would be no chance of a reverting to 1 Cor 14. The very service itself for the most part, has a design that would make it impossible for most congregations to gather in a Biblical fashion (1 Cor 14) even if they wanted to. So we are talking about something radical here.

But lets suppose we do have a willing congregation. What would that look like? Well, some of us may remember the different kinds of professors at college. Some were great teachers and many were not. They all had qualifications, but clearly there were teachers that you could tell were called to their profession. The best professors always included the whole class. They elicited questions on whatever the subject at hand was and through those questions and the response of the class, we were taught. These classes were always invigorating and these teachers had a great skill at keeping the class on topic because in every class there were always left fielders who would ask unrelated questions. To me, this would be the gifting of an elder or teacher in a 1 Cor 14 setting, gifted by the Holy Spirit to do what secular institutions do all the time;

We have fleshed this out. We had a meeting in Missouri a few years ago. People came from all over the country. Greg Gordon and myself were there, as was Brian Long and Blaine and others. There were many pastors there. We had three days of meetings without any agenda at all. We would start around 8 or 9am, gathered around in a large circle and someone would open with a prayer and a Scripture. 12 hours later we would finish. Throughout the course of a day there would be singing, praying, sharing, testimony, laying on of hands and none of it was scheduled, the Holy Spirit was our leader. Now, if a group of men and woman from varying backgrounds, mostly pastors (who can be the most difficult to deal with because they are used to being in charge) can yield and follow the lead of the Lord through His Holy Spirit for 12 hours, how easy would it be to have this kind of service on a Sunday morning for a few hours or however long it lasted? Not difficult. It is not about the degree of difficulty, it is about yielding and surrendering to the Holy Spirit and having Jesus preeminent in the meeting.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2018/5/1 13:05

Wow Frank! If this ever happens in Missouri again, I would love to see if I am close enough to attend.

I think you said something that I thought earlier today that really hits the crux of the issue. The Holy Spirit must be the one who is in charge. He must lead everything we do. It is His agenda after all that is important, right?

But I think we have become accustomed to doing things that are devoid of the Spirit of God. We do it by our own strength, with our own agenda, out of our own heart and mind, and this fleshly effort cannot bring the results of the Spirit of God. We plan programs, organize services, brand our church, advertise, and draw in crowds. We try our best to minister to them. We do it out of a good heart most often. Our own motive is usually a good one. The problem is that it is our motive and our strength. We do it in His name, but it is not necessarily His will.

It is much like trying to live our lives under the mindset of law and performance. We try to do good, change our behavior, and clean up our lives, hoping God will be pleased. "God, in your name I cast out demons, etc." His reply is, "I never knew you." God, I tried to build this church for You. His reply is, "But you never consulted Me about how I wanted it done."

It is not about form or fashion, order of service, type of music, etc.. It is about a heart that simply says, "God, this is Your church. I am here to steward this body. What do You want done and I will do it."

Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2018/5/1 13:18

Apollus,

In a setting like that, how does doctrine become concrete?

Re: , on: 2018/5/1 14:03

Hi Travis,

You write.....

"We try our best to minister to them. We do it out of a good heart most often. Our own motive is usually a good one. The problem is that it is our motive and our strength. We do it in His name, but it is not necessarily His will."

I really believe that statement is true. I don't believe that there are any ministers sitting in back rooms plotting how they can outdo the Holy Spirit. I do believe that the vast majority of ministers are entrenched in their denominations traditions, imprisoned even. We had one relatively well known pastor at those meetings who was rather quiet all the way through. Near the end he was asked what he thought about the meetings. I will never forget what he said "They have been the high light of my Christian life."

Can you imagine something so simple being so profound. The tragedy is, and one day we will have to answer to the Lord for it, that it is all so simple. It does not require degrees or diplomas, it required giftings and the Lord, I believe, has gifted every single saint and it is so vital that they be encouraged to use their giftings. I personally believe that apart from glorifying God and remembering what the Lord Jesus did for us, that this is the reason why we gather. To edify, to encourage, to exercise our gifts and to know in our hearts that God has used us. This, more than anything, builds the Body.....bro Frank

Re: havok - posted by docs (), on: 2018/5/1 15:28

/In a setting like that, how does doctrine become concrete?/

To a certain degree, isn't the type of setting you asked about a concrete and living example of the doctrine of the many membered functioning with each member being willing to contribute what God has deposited within them. Would not this be doctrine displayed in a concrete and living way?

I'm not quibbling or trying to hassle but sincerely asking.

Thank you.

Delete for now - posted by docs (), on: 2018/5/1 15:30

I just can't get the link to work properly.

Thank you all your comments. Pls
s carry on.

Re: , on: 2018/5/1 15:46

it is about yielding and surrendering to the Holy Spirit and having Jesus preeminent in the meeting.....bro Frank

I so agree on this. I was at the meeting in Missouri. It reminded me much of what I experienced during the Jesus movement. There was no agenda other than Jesus. It operated on the 1st Corinthians 14:26 model. Whoever had a teaching, a tongue, a hymn, a prayer, an insight, a scripture, Etc. Any good share.

All of us who participated at the meeting believe that Jesus came down in our midst. It was a wonderful time.

Which brings me to the question. Why do we need another revival conference. Where if just two or three come together in a spirit of unity. Jesus is right there in their midst.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: , on: 2018/5/1 16:13

Havok writes.....

"In a setting like that, how does doctrine become concrete?"

Great question, outside of essentials I don't think anything should be concrete. There should be room for people of the Calvinistic persuasion and the Arminian persuasion. There should also be room for those who believe in a pre-trib rapture and all other tribs. These should be interesting and fascinating in-house discussions we have where iron simply sharpens iron and no one announces that it's their ball and they are leaving. I once had breakfast once a week for eight months with a Baptist Pastor friend who was convinced of a certain interpretation of Romans 7, I held the opposite view. It was one of the most rewarding encounters I have ever had.

Most of know this Scripture

A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

(Psa 133:1-3)

If I could tie that Scripture to John 17 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. (Joh 17:22-24)

And then tie it to And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (Eph 4:11-13)

We begin to see something truly marvelous arise out of Scripture. We see first that there is a beautiful anointing that flows from unity, we see that example in the Psalm where so much oil is poured over the head (revival?) that it runs down the beard and covers the whole Body. Who would not want that kind of anointing or glory? Then we see that very glory spoken of in John 17 by Jesus who says that when we are one as He and His Father are one then we behold His glory, the very glory given to Jesus by the Father. And then finally we see in Eph 4 just why we have all these gifts and ministries " Till we all come in the unity of the faith."

Its there brothers and sisters, its right there if we would only yield and surrender to the Word of God and not the traditions of men. There is no greater tragedy under heaven if when the Lord comes back the Body of Christ is multiply divided and separated by walls of division and denomination.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2018/5/1 16:33

There are several drivers of the form and format of worship gatherings.

1. tradition
2. fear of chaos and abuse
3. general lack of manifestation of the Holy Spirit in congregants' lives daily.

4. desire for larger and larger congregations driven by good motives and bad motives.
5. desire to receive and grow individually rather than to give and help others grow. This may be the most crucial problem in the church. It leads to the need for pastor centric churches, missional organizations, parachurch ministries, generally and inevitably creating a mercenary based Christianity where we hire people to do the work of ministry in place of the priesthood of believers.
6. using gatherings as a time for outreach to the lost and to seekers rather than primarily as a time of communion with God and His people.
7. quenching of the Spirit by despising prophesy. Cessationsism.
8. Pastor salaries that force pastors to be the center of church spiritual life. Pastors and lay people alike want this.
9. A human desire for structure where we can just show up and plug into church without thought or intention.
10. A lowering of understanding and expectation of what a true born again Christian is. We are building our spiritual houses primarily with "wood, hay and stubble" instead of "precious stones" and thus, the glory of God rarely falls into that spiritual temple. This is the one reason that should cause leadership to tremble for an account will be required.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2018/5/1 17:03

Quote:

"Great question, outside of essentials I don't think anything should be concrete. There should be room for people of the Calvinistic persuasion and the Arminian persuasion. There should also be room for those who believe in a pre-trib rapture and all other tribes. These should be interesting and fascinating in-house discussions we have where iron simply sharpens iron and no one announces that it's their ball and they are leaving. I once had breakfast once a week for eight months with a Baptist Pastor friend who was convinced of a certain interpretation of Romans 7, I held the opposite view. It was one of the most rewarding encounters I have ever had."

Hallelujah! Wouldn't that be great to see more often!!
Thanks Frank.

CoG...great post also. Hit it on the head(s).

Re: - posted by noone (), on: 2018/5/2 17:11

"Great question, outside of essentials I don't think anything should be concrete. There should be room for people of the Calvinistic persuasion and the Arminian persuasion. There should also be room for those who believe in a pre-trib rapture and all other tribes. These should be interesting and fascinating in-house discussions we have where iron simply sharpens iron and no one announces that it's their ball and they are leaving. I once had breakfast once a week for eight months with a Baptist Pastor friend who was convinced of a certain interpretation of Romans 7, I held the opposite view. It was one of the most rewarding encounters I have ever had." end quote

I totally agree! I have been out of the building for about 6 or so years. We have recently started a "I have no name for it" but a group of friends coming together at my house eating together, reading books together or scripture or just visiting. Really just getting to know each other to love each other and figure out how to flesh out our walk with Christ in absolute surrender to Him and truly learning how to walk as His beloved SO WE CAN LOVE OTHERS!! That is the Gospel! That is what we are called to do love God with all our heart and our neighbor. Not set up doctrinal statements or set up people as Ministers and hand out titles or set up a "denomination"

WE may meet every week but then not meet for a couple weeks. It's just how everyone's schedule works. It really is not rocket science or that difficult to figure out. When you come out of the building you so want a system or set of rules to follow, but that is part of the problem imo. It really is simple! If you really want to know how the body should work then the first step is getting rid of what you think you know or grew up in. Get rid of it all and be willing to re-learn everything!

We have touched on most of our long held doctrines that we all grew up in "church" learning about and we may not have concrete answers for all of them but there is no judging when we have crazy questions or random thoughts. It really is like a family getting to know each other. That is what the body should look like. Just imagine being invited to a family dinner and when you walk through the door you are given a printed out itinerary and a time frame for each thing you are allowed to participate in as you sit in your rows of chairs staring at the back of your cousins head. Hogwash! The family would never bond or truly know each other. It would all be surface relationships for the most part.

Being the body is being a family...learning to deal with each others weirdness and loving each other anyway!

Re: , on: 2018/5/2 18:11

Tina writes...

///Â It really is like a family getting to know each other. That is what the body should look like. Just imagine being invited to a family dinner and when you walk through the door you are given a printed out itinerary and a time frame for each thing you are allowed to participate in as you sit in your rows of chairs staring at the back of your cousins head. Hogwash! The family would never bond or truly know each other. It would all be surface relationships for the most part.Â

Being the body is being a family...learning to deal with each others weirdness and loving each other anyway! ///

Mark 3:33-35

He replied to them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"Â Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!Â Â Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Should this not characterize our fellowship? Being in a circle seeing one another with Jesus at the center?Â Being a spiritual family?

When I was involved in the Jesus movement. This was our fellowship. This was our church.

BlaineÂ

Re: - posted by noone (), on: 2018/5/4 10:36

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I have never looked at that verse that way. Thank you, I look forward to sharing that insight with my friends. It definitely has as a practical use, but the spiritual significance is HUGE!

Re: , on: 2018/5/4 21:51

Some great replies, I would suggest reading "Finding Church." Its a fascinating book by a man who Pastored in a church for 40 years, then left "the system."bro Frank