

Crazy Love

Growing CLOSER—*Cultivating a Heart for One Another!*

October 11, 2009

Introduction

Embracing One Another as “Family”

- **God**—Father, Son, Holy Spirit—the true “First family!”
- **Jesus**
 - a- Redefines His “family” [Matt. 12:46-50]
 - b- Invites us to call God—“*Abba*” [Matt. 6:9]
 - c- Identifies with us as His “brothers” [Heb. 2:11, 17, 3:1, 6]
- **John**
 - a- Born...again/from above/from God [John 1:12-13, 3:3-6, I John 2:29, 4:7]
 - b- Refers to us as “children of God” [I John 3:1-2]
- **Paul**
 - a- Refers to us as “adopted children” [Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 4:5-6; Eph. 1:5]
 - b- Refers to us as “brothers” [i.e. Phil. 1:12, 3:1, 4:1]
 - c- Refers to Jesus as the 1st of many brothers [Rom. 8:29]
 - d- We’re called to see one another as family [I Tim. 5:1-2]
 - e- We’re called to *philadelphia*—“love brotherly” [Rom. 12:10, I Thess. 4:9]
- **James**
 - * Refers to us as “beloved brothers” [i.e. James 1:2, 16, 19, 2:1, 5, 14]
- **Peter**
 - a- Born again [I Peter 1:3, 23 *note v.22]
 - b- We’re called to *philadelphia*—“love brotherly” [I Peter 3:8, * also Heb. 13:1]

The Concentric Circles of Knowing/Belonging (from least knowing to increased intimacy)

GOD’S FAMILY

- 1) **Historical**—followers of Jesus Christ before us, and coming after us
- 2) **Global**—followers of Jesus Christ around the world
- 3) **Local**—followers of Jesus Christ in our City (Cincinnati, Mason)
- 4) **Relational**—followers of Jesus Christ here @ Hope—4934 Western Row Rd.

HOPE CHURCH FAMILY

- a) **Historical**—those who have come before us, and will follow after us
- b) **Global**—those we worship with each Sunday—may or may not know
- c) **Local**—those we fellowship with or serve alongside each week
- d) **Relational**—a close-knit small group, or 1 or 2 sacred companions/allies

* Notice how this tiered depth of “knowing” mirrors your own family tree.

- 1) **Historical**—all “Kirk’s” before me and after me
- 2) **Global**—my *extended* family—“Kirk cousins” out West
- 3) **Local**—my *immediate* family—mom/dad, my siblings and their kids
- 4) **Relational**—my *nuclear* family—Amy and our children

God’s Vision for us as a Family: Love One Another

John 13:34 - Jesus—“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. **Just as** I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

John 15:12 - Jesus—“This is my commandment: Love one another **as** I have loved you.”

Eph. 5:1-2 - Paul—“As beloved children, be imitators of God. And walk in love, **as** Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.”

I John 4:7, 11 - John—“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been

*born of God and knows God. Beloved, if God **so loved us**, we also ought to love one another.”*

Crazy Love as a Diamond...*multifaceted* in its expressions

I Peter 1:22; 4:8

Love is...

- **Authentic**—you drop the façade to truly know and be known

- **Intentional**—you pursue others by initiating relationship

- **Persevering (4:8)**—you stay the course and hang in there through it all

- **Forgiving (4:8)**—you extend lots of grace to others

Romans 12:9-16

Love is...

- **Uplifting (v.10)**—you seek to be a life-giving channel of encouragement

- **Helpful (v.13a)**—you identify needs and seek to meet them

- **Welcoming (v.13b)**—you open your heart and your home to others

- **Unifying (v.16a)**—you seek the peace of the family through healthy relating

- **Humble (v.16b)**—you consider the needs of others first

- * **Honest (Eph. 4:15)**—you speak truthful things in loving ways...aimed at maturity

John 15:13; 13:35; 17:21; 23

Love is...

- **Sacrificial (v.13)**—you lay down your life (desires, dreams, energy) to bless others

- **Compelling (13:35; 17:21; 23)**—you help offer the world an undeniable picture of Jesus!

Reflection Questions:

*Am I embracing God's Plan for Hope to become a Family?
How might this look...tangibly?*

*Am I embracing God's Vision for us to love one another?
How is this finding practical expression?*

*Is CRAZYLOVE just about trying harder...to love?
Or is there another way?*