

SERVING THE FAMILY BUSINESS

God's heart is to create a family of His own and He created you to become a part of it.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family... This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5 NLT

There is a requisite for us to be part of God's family and that is to be born again with an evidence of a changed life.

He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:11-12

God becomes our Father, we become His children and others become our brothers and sisters and the local church is our spiritual family.

*...for it is his boundless mercy that has given us **the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family.** 1 Peter 1:3*

Christianity is not just a matter of believing, it is a matter of belonging.

We are not only to believe; we also need to belong.

“WE ARE PART OF ONE BODY”

Everyone is significant and an important part or member of the body as a whole.

So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Rom. 12:5 NIV

The word “**member**” is biblical in its origin. It comes from the Latin word “**membrum**” which means “limb” or part of the body.

Read Romans 12:4-6

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole ... Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?

For that “*limb*” or “*part*” to fulfil its purpose, it must be connected to the body.

It is also true for you and me as part of the body.

We need to **rediscover** and **practice** the biblical meaning of “**membership**” and **discover our role and purpose** in life through our relationship with others.

GOD'S HEART IS FOR THE FAMILY!

Family comes from the Latin word “**famulus**”

which means “***servant***”.

Family is more than a group of people related by blood or genes but everything to do with *care, compassion, service and support* with love as the common bond.

His church is His family.

And to run a successful family business, you and I, who are part of His family, must understand His protocols and the way God runs His family.

What are those foundational truths for a successful family business?

1. LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE

Commit yourself to “*LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE***”.**

2 John 1:6 NCV

*And love means living the way God commanded us to live. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is this: ***Live a life of love.****

The ongoing and greatest lesson we have to learn in this life is to learn how to love God and those whom God says we need to love.

God wants us to love everyone, especially the members of the family.

Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good... especially for the family of believers. Gal. 6:10

Our greatest witness to this world is when we love each other unconditionally.

God wants His family to be known for its love more than anything else.

John 13:35 NLT

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

2. COME TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED

Commit yourself to serve the family.

Matthew 20:28, *"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

"It is not the level of our position but the quality of our service that matters to God".

Our life long goal must be to serve the Master.

Mark 10:42-44 - *But Jesus said to them, "those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great shall be your servant. And whoever desires to be first shall be slaves of all.***

3. MAKE FORGIVENESS YOUR DEFAULT POSITION

Commit yourself to forgive others.

Forgiveness is an expression of submission to Christ and fellow believers.

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.

Not to forgive will make our heart callous and lose our sensitivity to hear God's voice.

We need to forgive because not one of us is perfect.

We need to forgive because they are not our enemies, they are our family, and they are part of Christ's body.

Jesus our perfect example

a. Jesus was committed to love everyone.

He showed His love on the cross. Jn.15:12-13

b. Jesus was committed to serve

His life is a life of service. Read Matt. 20:28; Phils. 2:5-8; Jn. 13:4-8

c. Jesus was committed to forgive others

While on the cross dying, He forgave.

Read Luke 23:34; Matt. 6:14-15