

Jesus is King | A Series through the Gospel of Mark

The Church as a Family

Mark 3:31-35

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." 33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

Synopsis: When we follow Jesus, our allegiance extends also to his people.

What is community?

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "**Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.**" (Mark 3:31-32)

1st century person's definition of community¹

- In the New Testament world the group took priority over the individual.
- In the New Testament world a person's most important group was his family.
- In the New Testament world the closest family bond was the bond between siblings.

21st century person's definition of community²

- In the West the individual takes priority over the group.
- In the West a person's most important group is herself.
- In the West the closest family bond is romantic love.

Jesus redefines community

33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 **For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.**" (Mark 3:33-35)

Our loyalty is to Jesus and his Kingdom:

1. over our family
2. Over ourselves

Challenges to community

- We live in an individualistic society
- We view church as a club/business not a family
- We have a high view of information and a low view of accountability

A way forward

- Do you have people in your church who can love and support you?
- Are you trying to love and support someone else?
- Can these same people challenge you and speak truth into your life, and will you listen to them even when it's hard?

¹ Joseph H. Hellerman. *When the Church Was A Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community*. (B&H Academic, 2009). 64

² Joseph H. Hellerman. *When the Church Was A Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community*. (B&H Academic, 2009). 64