INTRODUCTION

This weekend we begin a short series on Church Life. What is a church anyway? And what does it look like to invest in our shared mission of making and multiplying Christ-followers who magnify the glory of God? How is our church led, and what are our core values? We will explore these questions together, but today we begin by asking “What is Grace Baptist Church?”.

Grace Baptist Church is …

A Gathered Family:
Ephesians 2:19-22

A Scripture-Dependent Family:
Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 4:1-4

A Christ-Focused Family:
Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

A Spirit-Empowered Family:
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God…” Ephesians 2:19
What are your weekly church habits? How do you prepare your heart and mind to gather with the Body of Christ each week? Knowing that Christ died for each person in the body and shed the same blood, how should that inform how you care for people in the church? What is lost when we read these verses with only a personal lense? How does an understanding of our corporate “drawing near” and our corporate “holding fast” contribute to our corporate “stirring one another up to love and good deeds”?

Do you find joy in being with the family of God? Why or why not? Why is it important for Christ’s Church to be devoted to the “apostles’ teaching”? What would happen if the Church is not? What does it look like to be devoted to “the apostles’ teaching in your life? How often is the word referenced or discussed when you are with your Christian friends outside of Church?

What is your definition of the Church? How do most people view the Church? How would you winsomely and biblically respond to specific objections people have towards the Church? What does it mean to be a Christ-centered family? Does it mean we merely talk about Christ or does it mean more than that?

Do you think it’s important to serve the Church? Why or why not? Why do you think people don’t value serving the Church? How is serving the Church and gathering with the Body related? How has the Spirit gifted you to serve the Body? Do you need to be transformed in your mind when it comes to how you view gathering with and serving the saints?

Reflect on some of the questions from this week. Ask the Lord to help you grow in any areas where you might be struggling. Pray for opportunities to be more hospitable to those in the Body of Christ. Pray for opportunities to display the love you have for the Body today. Pray for a heart that sees the benefits of being with God’s people.