

Ephesians 2:19

1. God's children are ADOPTED into His family.

Ephesians 1:4-8

"What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father."

— J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Adoption into God's family is the APEX of relationships.

2. In God's family, no one is an ONLY CHILD.

Ephesians 5:1-2

The “agape” love of God – it’s the kind of behavior that “WILLS the BEST” for someone else.

Here are a few examples of the Biblical “one anothers”:

- Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
- Don’t boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26)
- Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
- Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
- Don’t complain against one another (Jas 4:11, 5:9)
- Confess sins to one another (Jas 5:16)
- Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)
- Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
- Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
- Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)
- Bear one another’s burdens (Ga 6:2)
- Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)

Are you in a series of relationships where you can EXPERIENCE these?



3. God's family grows stronger the more we're CONNECTED and COMMITTED to Him and one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

COMMUNITY:

people who live in the High Desert & have no connection or awareness of HDC

NEXT STEPS:

- respond to the Gospel
- begin attending HDC worship services

CROWD:

people who live in the High Desert and have a loose connection to and awareness of HDC

NEXT STEPS:

- respond to the Gospel or begin to pursue spiritual growth
- get connected through consistent attendance
- get baptized

CONGREGATION:

people who live in the High Desert & attend HDC worship services at least 1-2 times a month and are nominally involved beyond that

NEXT STEPS:

- attend Rooted and become part of a Growth Group
- get baptized
- become a member of HDC
- get connected to HDC through more consistent attendance
- discover your spiritual gifts
- make financial partnership a consistent rhythm



COMMITTED:

people who live in the High Desert & attend HDC worship services at least 2 times a month and are serving and giving on occasion

NEXT STEPS:

- attend weekend worship services more consistently
- begin consistently giving financially to HDC
- begin serving consistently according to your spiritual gifts
- attend Rooted and become a part of a Growth Group
- take advantage of spiritual growth opportunities like HDC U

CORE:

people who live in the High Desert & attend HDC worship services at least 3 times a month and are consistently serving, giving, and connected in a small group

NEXT STEPS:

- consider joining HDC Next
- serve on various ministry teams where the needs are seasonally significant
- give sacrificially beyond a tithe

What are your NEXT STEPS toward “making yourself at home” in this church family?

When you follow Jesus, God becomes your Father and His people become your family. You’re not meant to attend church like a HOTEL guest—you’re meant to make yourself at HOME.

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