

LIVE *for a* C·H·A·N·G·E

THE POWER OF C-H-A-N-G-E
Part N – Nurtures Authentic Relationships
Acts 2:42-47

August 21, 2016
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INTRODUCTION

Life Change Indicators spiritual assessment tool:
www.sugarcreek.net/lifechange

I. WE HAVE A SPIRITUAL FAMILY.

- A. There is a specific time we become a **child** of God and enter God's family.

*John 1:12 (NIV) "...To all who received Christ, to those who believed in His name, He gave the **right** to become children of God."*

To be God's child you have to be born **again**. (John 1:12; John 3:5-7)

- B. We are to be a **member** of a local church.

*Ephesians 2:19 "... You are a member of God's very own family ... and you **belong** in God's household with every other Christian."*

1. Of the 79 times the word church is used in the Bible, it only refers to it as the universal church 4 times. Every

other time (75 times) in the Bible the word church refers to a **local** body of believers just like Sugar Creek. The Bible talks a lot about the strong importance of being an active part of a local church.

2. Church Membership In The Bible, Dr. Peter Masters; | Am A Church Member, by Dr. Thom Rainer.
3. The church isn't a building. The church is **us**.
4. When we join a church we are saying:
 - a. These are the people I **trust** to minister to me.
 - b. These are the people who trust me to minister to them.
 - c. These are people I **join** to minister to the world together.

II. WHY IS THIS NEW FAMILY SO IMPORTANT TO OUR DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP TO GOD?

- A. We were never intended to live this Christian life **alone**.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 “Two are better off than one ¹⁰ If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is **alone** and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him.... ¹² Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.”

- B. We need **encouragement** to grow spiritually.

Hebrews 10:25 “Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us **encourage** one another....”

- C. We make each other better.

Proverbs 27:17 “People learn from one another just as iron **sharpens** iron.”

III. THE GREATEST PLACE TO **NURTURE** AUTHENTIC SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS IS SMALL GROUPS.

- a. We spend consistent time in small **group** together inside and outside church activities.

Acts 2:42-47 (NASB) “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to

the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

- B. We unite around God’s common **purpose**. (Acts 2:46)

*Acts 2:46 “And day by day continuing with **one** mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.”*

- C. We help meet each other’s **physical** needs. (Acts 2:44-45)

Acts 2:44-45 “All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”

- D. We **carry** each other when we are going through hurtful days.

Galatians 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

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Notes:
