

Known: Sharing the Kingdom

To briefly recap we began by exploring how we are perfectly and intimately known by God Himself. He knows us so well that He knows what's best for us, He knows how we were created, and He knows that we were made for relationship and fellowship.

Many of us struggle to have deep and meaningful relationships with others. Yet, something amazing happens when we give our lives to Christ. He literally takes us, as 1 Peter 2:4-5 says and builds us into the spiritual house.

Our once isolated lives become embedded into the greater family of Christ. It is through Christ that we learn to grow in relationship and fellowship. We find ourselves both known by and knowing others and frankly, it is *fantastic*.

It's so wonderful that it's worth sharing.
That's the plan we'll be exploring today.
We share the kingdom. It's what we do. It's who we are.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Paul, like Peter last week, described how the people of God are being built up together into a dwelling place... a spiritual home.

Paul adds into this passage the idea that when you come to faith in Jesus, you are no longer foreigners or strangers... Or said another way, you're no longer unknown and far away from fellowship.

You are fellow citizens with God's people and members of His household...

Fellow Citizens

Story of Olona - Many of us can relate to this story because we've felt *unwanted, alone, unloved...*

The story shows us when you come to faith, Christ adopts you into His family; you become *fellow citizens with God's people and members of His household* means you'll never have to hear the word *unwanted* spoken over you again.

Let's turn our attention outward and consider what it would look like to invite others into the family. What would it look like to extend the invitation to other potential *fellow-citizens*?

Sharing the Kingdom

Sharing the kingdom is what we do. It's who we are.

Matthew 22:1-14 - *The Parable of the Wedding Banquet.*

The illustration describes how the original invitations were rejected and that the king eventually instructs his servants to go and invite anyone they find to the banquet.

Jesus makes a point of saying that, "*the banquet is ready,*"

The family table is a place where time is spent with one another. It is a place where relationships develop and grow. The table is a picture of shared fellowship with others. It's a place where we both get to know and allow ourselves to be known by others.

Eventually all the seats at the table will be filled and the king will order the banquet hall doors to be closed. So, it's important for us to invite as many people as we can... for as long as we can... to join the fellowship.

Don't Give Up

It's no secret that having healthy relationships with others takes time and energy. Many have chosen to abandon the pursuit altogether and live isolated lives devoid of connection and intimacy. We were made in the image of the triune God, for community, fellowship, and kingdom centered relationships.

Galatians 6:9 - If anyone could speak about *becoming weary* it would be the Apostle Paul. He was weary for the sake of sharing the gospel with others. And yet he still encourages the rest of us to do good to all people for as long as we can, at every opportunity.

Jesus is still building His church, there's still room for more *fellow-citizens, more adopted siblings* at the table.

Conclusion

Highlights of the last four weeks:

First and foremost, your relationship with God...and being in right relationship with Him is the most important point to remember. As you grow in relationship with God, as you come to *know Him*, it's important that you learn to trust Him.

Second, what's most fulfilling and healthy is being a part of a fellowship of believers, the local church. This is where you're able to know and be known by others in a Christ centered atmosphere. Will it be hard? Yes! Of course. But will it be worth it? Yes!

Finally, be intentional about inviting others to the kingdom table... Invite as many as you can to the great banquet of the King.

This is how we are fully known and fully loved.