**Coming Home: One Another Passages**

Our theme for 2021 is “Coming Home.”

This is about a lot of things. It is about those who have strayed coming home.

It is about those who have never had a spiritual home, coming to Christ.

But above all, it is about us as a body of Christians, who have been a bit scattered in 2020 because of the Covid-19 crisis, finding and creating a home for one another.

Our devo four weeks ago about family from Ephesians, we learned:

Eph 1:5 We have adoption into his family!!! God took us in.

Eph 1:11-13 We were chosen, included in Christ

Eph 2:11-12. As Gentiles outside of Christ we were:

a. v. 11 Uncircumcized

b. v. 12 Separate from Christ

c. v. 12 Excluded from citizenship

d. v. 12 Without hope

e. v. 12 Without God

No home!!!! Talk about being on the outside looking in. But… v. 13

Eph 2:13-22 But now, in Christ:

a. v. 13 We are brought near by the blood of Christ.

b. v. 14 We are made one (Jew and Gentile)

c. v. 14 The barrier of hostility has been destroyed.

d. v. 16 We are one body

e. v. 19 We are fellow-citizens with God’s people.

f. v. 19 We are members of God’s household/family.

g. v. 21 We are a holy temple in the Lord

h. v. 22 We are a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

So, now that we are in this together.

Now that we are all part of God’s household/God’s family together.

Now that we have a home to come home to…

What shall we do?

Implement the one another scriptures.

Today:

I. Love one another

John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

This how I knew I was among disciples 42 years ago.

It was how I knew that I was “home” back then.

John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:17 This is my command: Love each other. (others: 1 John 3:11,23, 4:7,11,12

What does this mean to you/me/us?

I like Phil 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others. *In your relationships* with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus…. rather he made himself nothing by taking the nature of a servant…

How do we love one another? By making ourselves “nothing” and by taking the nature of a servant.

Q: How do we do this? By putting yourself at the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you doing that?

Me putting myself at the service of my parents this week. But that is my parents.

1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, so that you have sincere love (phileo) for one another, love (agape) one another deeply from the heart.

Here the word is phileo rather than agape. Being close to one-another. Family-like love for one another.

We need to phileo one another. We need to have a warm, friendly, safe, intimate, warm, family kind of love for one another.

How do we do this? We need to spend time together. We need to find out what each other enjoy doing and do it together.

II. Submit to one another

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence (phobos, fear) for Christ.

Submit yourselves one to another out of fear of Christ.

Submit: *hupotasso* To place in rank under, to obey

Notice: It is not allow yourself to be subjected to. It is submit yourselves to. This is a decision of the will to put yourself under another person.

What would it be like to live in a family in which all individuals submitted themselves to one another?

Concerns would be shared and met.

Feelings would be considered.

III. Serve one another in love Gal 5:13

I think we do this well pretty, but there are people who are not served as well as they need.

Think: Who in our church does not have their needs met as much as they ought? It is

1. The ones who are on the fringe or

2. The ones who do not ask.

Think about those in our church who are somewhat on the fringe. They have a fairly narrow range of friends in the church, they are newer here and possibly even they are weaker Christians. Name some to yourselves now (not to judge, but to help)

Some do not ask for help. I don’t need help. I do not want to bother anyone.

But they forget Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” If you refuse help, then you steal the blessing from someone else.

For this to work, we need campus and singles to have relationships with the older members.

Later:

Bear with one another Eph 4:2 Col 3:13

Encourage one another

Be devoted to one another and honor one another Romans 12:10

Teach and admonish one another Col 3:16

Confess your sins to one another and pray for each other James 5:16

Accept one another Romans 15:7

Carry each other’s burdens Gal 6:2

Forgive one another Eph 4:32

Encourage each other/Build each other up 1 Thess 4:18, 5:11