

COMMON TABLE Pt 1

“All Things in Common”

COMMON TABLE

The table reflects both our belonging and our the invitation to belong.

- A Meal is a Leveling Space
- A Meal is a Common Space
- A Meal is Family Space

“For Jesus’ disciples, biological parenting isn't’ meant to be the only way we leave a legacy and build a family. It’s not even meant to be the primary way we leave a legacy or build a family. Jesus treats the family of God as something much more substantial than just a pretty metaphor. It is a concrete claim, literal state of being. Those who follow God together are family to one another.” Greg Coles, *No Longer Strangers* (pg. 107)

ASSUMPTION

The world needs the Church.

THE CHURCH

The church is the Body of Christ (the family of God).

- His Body is the Fullness of Him.
- His Body brings that Fullness of Life to everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:22-23 MSG

Jesus is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

- We are to Bear the INTEGRITY of His IMAGE— we represent Him accurately
- We are to Bring the INFLUENCE of His Love— we act as representatives of His intentions.

And so we gather and we work together, we cooperate together, and we contribute. As we offer ourselves to Christ and to one another, we literally flesh out the reality of God in this world... for the world.

“The main politic of the church is Jesus is Lord. And the main place that politic is played out is in the church, where we **voluntarily give our allegiance** to Jesus.”
(Meghan Good)

Acts 2:42-47 NIV

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and ***had everything in common.***

45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

COMMUNITY

Community is the relational space through which God's Love is Exchanged, Experienced, and Ultimately Expressed.

SHARED IDENTITY – SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Our Shared Identity brings a Shared Responsibility.

"In a culture where so many long for authentic connection, the Church has the incredible opportunity to be a beacon of hope and belonging. This deliberate thoughtfulness transforms our faith communities into sanctuaries of encouragement and renewal." (Tony Ripa)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG HERE?

R.E.A.L is a set of expectations and hopes that we have for our church. These are not expectations of someone to be a part of our church, but rather what we would expect for someone because they are a part of our church.

R-ELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

We want for everyone to have a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with Christ.

E-NGAGED IN COMMUNITY

We want for everyone to be VITALLY CONNECTED to the Body of Christ.

A-CTIVE IN SERVING

We want for everyone to have a sense of SHARED RESPONSIBILITY for our church.

L-EVERAGE YOUR LIFE FOR IMPACT

We want for everyone to FULFILL THEIR CALLING.

BENEDICTION: Ephesians 4:1-16