

Matthew 22:36-39 - God's Family

- 1) Matt 22:36-39
 - a) **Q: Why is it important to love our neighbors as ourselves?**
- 2) Gal 6:10
 - a) **Q: Why give special love and attention to believers? Why do they get priority?**
 - i) John 13:35 – That's how people will know we are Christians
 - ii) Family
 - iii) Strengthen the herd
 - b) **Q: Do you get along with every Christian? Is there someone you don't get along with?**
 - i) Keep name(s) for later
 - c) Bible says
 - i) That we are all members of the same body, but we all have different functions
 - ii) That we are our weakest when separated from "the body"
 - d) Do you realize that the bad relationship is separating them from the body
 - i) Leaving them to be attacked by Satan
 - ii) Leaving them to die!
 - e) Scripture
 - i) Heb 3:13 – Encourage each other
 - ii) James 5:19 – Get them back
 - iii) Heb 13:17 – responsibilities of leaders (us as leaders)
- 3) Real fellowship
 - a) James 5:16 – confess to one another and pray for one another – so that we may see healing
 - b) 2 Cor 2:7
 - c) Col 3:13
 - d) Give and receive with the other members
 - i) Organs that only give, don't receive what they need and die
 - ii) Organs that only receive are like cancer draining and killing the rest of the system
 - e) James 3:18 (MSG)
 - i) 18 You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.
- 4) Healing
 - a) Pair off or group
 - i) **Q: Who do you need to contact as a result of this lesson?**
 - ii) **Q: What do you need to do to heal or build a relationship with that Christian you aren't getting along with?**
 - b) 7 steps
 - i) Talk to God first
 - (1) Vent vertically
 - (2) Identified unmet needs (root of most conflict)
 - ii) Take initiative
 - (1) Does not matter if you are the offender or the offeree
 - (2) Bible says restoring broken fellowship takes priority of group worship

- iii) Sympathize with their feelings
 - (1) Look out for another's interest not just your own
- iv) Confess your part
- v) Focus on the problem not the person
- vi) Cooperate as much as possible
 - (1) Peace has a price tag – pride, self centeredness, compromise
- vii) Emphasize reconciliation not resolution
 - (1) Arm in arm not eye to eye