

Abundant Life Church
Pastor Steve Finton
October 1, 2017

Series: ***What On Earth Are We Here For?***

Title: ***What Matters Most***

My attitude and stance in treating people is simple...

For God so loved the world that he gave...

Before Jesus the only people called God's people were the Jews.

Every revolution needs a radical message

1. America's Radical Message, 240 years ago was... a Government Run by the People...and for the people.

Our radical message today is...

- I've got to be me.
- I did it my way.

We have been taught that happiness is the result of independence!

Our world says, "If you are independent in every way, then you will be the happiest."

Self-Independence is not the answer.

Happiness comes from interdependence, from community.

1 Corinthians 13:1

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

The radical message of Christ is love in community: we need each other.

Romans 12:5

...so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

How can we love others in this community?

Reasons we need a church family:

1. I need others to walk with me.

**Abundant Life Church
Pastor Steve Finton
October 1, 2017**

Colossians 2:6 “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him...

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so sit still in him...

2. God never intended for you to walk through life alone.

Mark 12:19-31 (NIV)

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

3. Spiritual Growth Requires Relationships

God says, “I want you to practice learning to love.”

God has given you a family in order to learn how to love.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...

You could come to church every week for years and still be lonely because you never got to know anybody.

God formed us for fellowship not loneliness!

Smaller groups help us grow relationally.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (MSG)

You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.

1 Corinthians 14:26-33 (MSG)

So here's what I want you to do. When you gather for worship, each one of you be prepared with something that will be useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight. And no more than two or three speakers at a meeting, with the rest of you listening and taking it to heart. Take your turn, no one person taking over.

Philippians 1:27 (CEV)

Above all else, live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ... then I will know that you are working together and struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news.