

# Together We Connect

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## CALVARY SEEKS TO BE A CHURCH FAMILY THAT IS BETTER TOGETHER,

being changed by the Gospel  
to love like Jesus across all cultures and generations.

### Imagine you are part of a wonderful family.

#### You have parents that love like this:

- They constantly provide unconditional love which makes you feel significant.
- They have limitless compassion and mercy for even your worst failures.
- They know your weakness and failure but are always ready to forgive and restore you.
- They model and mentor good traits for you to promote healthy growth.
- They always are ready with insights, wisdom and direction when you need it or are anxious about life.
- They value all that is different and unique about your life.
- They are always present and available but never seem interfering or overbearing.
- If you are a boy, you want to grow up to be just like your father. If you are a girl, you want to grow up and marry a man like your father.

#### You have brothers, sisters and cousins that love like this:

- Whether you were born into the family or adopted later, they are committed to you because “you are family.”
- They seek to develop meaningful relationships that touch your heart and soul.
- They always accept you and affirm that you belong to their family.
- They know your faults and weaknesses but persist in loving and forgiving you.
- When you cry, they cry with you. When you are happy, they rejoice with you.
- When you experience sorrow or loss, they are the first to support you and meet your needs.
- They have other friends and are proud to introduce you to them.
- They love you enough to speak truth into your life.
- They are friends that enjoy you and seek fun times with you.

### What if we had a church like this family?

## Our Vision as a church family....

We have a Father in heaven, and church leaders, to love like this:

- **They constantly provide unconditional love which makes you feel significant.** Ephesians 1:3-6, 2 Corinthians 3:5
- **They offer limitless compassion, affection and mercy for even your worst failures.** Psalm 103:13-14, Isaiah 40:11, Mark 6:34
- **They know your weakness and failure but are always ready to forgive and restore you.** I Timothy 1:12-17
- **They model and mentor you to promote healthy growth for you.** Philippians 4:8-9, I Peter 1:15-16, 2:21
- **They always are ready with biblical insights, wisdom and direction when you need it or are anxious about life.**  
II Timothy 3:15-17, Jeremiah 29:12-13
- **They value all that is different and unique about your life.** 1 Corinthians 12:14-25
- **They are always present and available but never seem interfering or overbearing.** Matthew 28:19-20, Psalm 139
- **If you are a boy, you want to grow up to be just like your father. If you are a girl, you want to grow up and marry a man like your father.** Matthew 3:17, 2 Corinthians 11:2

We have church members to love like this:

- **Whether you grew up at Calvary or joined last week, people are committed to you because “you are family.”**  
Galatians 3:27-29, Ephesians 2:21
- **They seek to develop meaningful relationships that touch your heart and soul.** Acts 2:43-47; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- **They always accept you and affirm that you belong to their family.** Romans 12:5-7
- **They know your faults and weaknesses but persist in loving and forgiving you.** 2 Corinthians 2:3-11
- **When you cry, they cry with you. When you are happy, they rejoice with you.** Romans 12:9-21
- **When you experience sorrow or loss, they are the first to support you.** Acts 2:44-45, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- **They have other friends and are proud to introduce you to them.** 2 Corinthians 7:13-16
- **They love you enough to speak truth into your life.** Ephesians 4:14-16
- **They are friends that enjoy you and seek fun times with you.** Acts 2:46-47

## Learn from the first church family in Acts 2:41-47

- **We invite, welcome, and accept new people into God's family.** Acts 2:41, 47
- **We learn the truths of God's Word together.** Acts 2:42
- **We share meals and fellowship together.** Acts 2:42
- **We experience God's work together.** Acts 2:43
- **We share our finances and resources together.** Acts 2:44-45
- **We enjoy life together.** Acts 2:46
- **We have a positive influence in our community together.** Acts 2:47

## Church families care for one another.

**Through Christ, we want to help people move from the column on the left to the right.  
Which column do you most identify with?**

Hurt people hurt people,	but helped people help people.
Broken people break people,	but rebuilt people build people.
Shattered people shatter people	but whole people restore people.
Damaged people damage people,	but loved people love people.
Wounded people wound people,	but healed people bind up wounds.
Bound people bind people,	but freed people lead others to freedom.

(above dapted from Christine Caine)

## What makes our church family different than any other social club?

- **God our Father adopted us.** Ephesians 1:3-5  
When did He choose us? What does this tell you about the greatness of our Father in heaven?
- **Jesus our Savior paid our "adoption fees" to join the church family.** Ephesians 1:7-8  
From Ephesians 1:7-8, how expensive was it? How does Paul describe it?
- **The Holy Spirit signed our birth certificate to assure that we belong to God.** Ephesians 1:14-15, 1 Corinthians 1:13-14  
What is His promise to us?

## Reflection and Discussion Questions:

Here are four qualities of a mature church family.

Which ones are you doing well? In which ones can you grow? How can you practice these qualities at Calvary?

**A family that welcomes “strangers” to join our home.** Ephesians 2:19

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household...*

**A family that focuses on the values of Jesus Christ.** Ephesians 2:20

*...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone...*

**A family that pursues deeper relationship with each other with a common purpose of holiness.** Ephesians 2:21

*...in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord...*

**A family that is strengthened to serve and care for each other until we grow into a dwelling of God.** Ephesians 2:22

*...in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

## Next Steps

- 1. Receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior:** Admit you have sinned against God and need His forgiveness once and for all. Believe that Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died for you as payment for your sin and rose from the dead to give you eternal life. You may receive God’s forgiveness and enter into His family by turning from your old life and trusting in Jesus alone as your only means of being cleansed from sin. Now, walk in newness of life with the Spirit as you follow Jesus, making Him the King of your life, from this day forward. Let us know if you made this decision so we can walk alongside you on the journey ahead. Learn more about the life-giving, good news of Jesus at [calvarylife.org/jesus](https://calvarylife.org/jesus)
- 2. Be baptized as a believer:** After having placed your trust in Christ for salvation, follow the example Jesus set in Scripture and gave to His followers of publicly confessing your faith through the act of water baptism. Find out about upcoming baptism classes and opportunities to be baptized at [calvarylife.org/baptism](https://calvarylife.org/baptism)
- 3. Attend the “Discover Calvary” Membership Class:** This is designed for you to learn more about Calvary before committing to become a member. We’ll talk about how God designed His church to function, the history and beliefs of Calvary, and will go on a behind-the-scenes tour to learn about the different ministries that take place at our church. Discover more about membership and upcoming classes at [calvarylife.org/membership](https://calvarylife.org/membership)
- 4. Find ways to connect at Calvary beyond the Worship Service:** Calvary offers many ways for you to get connected. Learn about LifeGroups, Equipping Classes, Life-Stage ministries, and ways to serve here at Calvary, out in the community and around the world by picking up the latest edition of the Calvary Quarterly, visiting Connection Point in the Lobby or going to our website at [calvarylife.org/connect](https://calvarylife.org/connect)