

Melva's Corner

SIGNIFICANCE IS A GIVEN!

August 7, 2006

(John 15:12)

Central Truth: We're a community of significance to help those who struggle at believing in their own.

Have you ever asked yourself what the church is? Jesus said it is a community of people — Jesus seekers — who love one another. **"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 NKJV)**. That's Jesus' command to us. In fact, the Lord said that this love will be the way folks will recognize that we are His followers **(John 13:35)**. And in another place, Jesus told us, **"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)**.

Millions of people who are lonely and heartbroken could be healed if they will allow God's people to love them and God's people choose to step outside their church boxes and reach out to them with love.

For over a decade, futurists and culture watchers have warned us that as the high tech world invades more and more of our lives, we will need to have a compensating opportunity for "high touch" moments in our lives. These are not experienced through cyber or text anything. These require face-to-face contact, skin-to-skin human touch, and the genuine words of a friend whose face we can see and whose body language we can experience.

As churches have gotten more "mega" and less personal, how are we going to find these "high touch" moments and share them with others who so desperately need them?

How are Jesus-followers going to follow their Lord's example of noticing, touching, speaking, and caring for those who feel alone and abandoned?

How am I going to be a part of the work of God of replacing the loneliness in families?

So why raise the questions without giving any answers? Simple, we need to prayerfully and thoughtfully respond to the crisis as churches, the followers of Jesus, and as individuals. One person can be a powerful blessing and we must choose to be that person of blessing. A group can make an even greater difference when banded together with a commitment to truly be the church that cares like Christ. And churches — small, large, and mega — have a responsibility to do more than build empires and hold services for the already saved: they must touch the hurt of the world. So let's have the questions trouble us until we begin to be part of the answers to the human loneliness epidemic.

All of us have a desire to be significant. We may not want to attract a lot of attention to ourselves in a crowd or be singled out for special attention, but we want to be significant. We want to have a life that matters. The sad thing is, we spend so much time trying to gain what God has already given us.

We are made of God's stuff—made in God's image, with significance and authority. He personally made us, carefully crafting us in our mother's womb. He has a plan for our future and a purpose for our being here. When we became Christians—when we trusted in Jesus as Lord and we shared in His death, burial and resurrection in baptism—we were adopted into His family as a full heir to all of His inheritance. As a Christian we have been given spiritual gifts to use to honor God and bless others in our spiritual family. He makes His home in us until we go to His place to live with Him. He will never leave us or forsake us. No one and nothing can separate us from His love. He works even the worst things in our lives out in ways that ultimately benefit us and get us to where He wants us to be. When Jesus returns, we will share in His triumph and His glory. Sound familiar.

You see, significance is a sure thing. It's not even an issue. The real issue is whether we can accept it as a gift and trust it as a foundation for our life. We don't have to win God's love or attention. He has already given it to us. His fingerprints are on our DNA and His pencil sketches out our future. So we can trust we are His and not be driven to doubt by Satan's attacks.

We can also help others under the assault of doubt find their significance, too. "If God only had a voice or could touch me with His hands," they say, "then I could know I'm worth somethin'." But then, that's why we're here—to be His voice and touch others as His hands. God didn't call any of us to be solo flight Christians. We're a community of significance to help those who struggle at believing in their own.

Significance is a given if we'll only trust that God came to our life and chose us for His team. Then until we can go home to be with Him, He not only spends the night with us, but He never leaves us!

Isn't it amazing that we are loved and wanted by the King of the Ages, Jesus Christ! Not only that, we weren't chosen out of pity, but to make a difference. We're chosen to bear fruit that will endure! To help insure that productivity, Jesus has promised we can ask for God's blessing on our work for His Kingdom and He will bless us. Incredible!

As Christians, we want to nurture our life in Christ so that it continues to grow consistently and refuse to let it stagnate. We want to continue our growth as God's children by studying His Word. We want our lives to bear fruit for the Master. We want a life that is strong and will endure.

So let's make the rest of today work a little better — and how about making a commitment to follow today with another and another and Try sharing yourself lovingly and completely with the community of Christ. It will make your day! And theirs too! When indeed this happens . . . Significance is a given!

My Prayer:

Give me a heart, O God, that is open to your work and a vision that is as expansive as your grace. May my prayers ask for things that bring you glory, expand the borders of your kingdom, and reach beyond the limited things that so often distract me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptural References:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8