



**PREACHER: N ONTONG**

**SERIES: EKKLESIA**

**TITLE: LIFE ENGAGEMENTS**

**DATE: 22 MAY 2011**

### **LIFE ENGAGEMENTS... THOSE ARE OF ETERNAL VALUE.**

We are still talking about the EKKLESIA, the CHURCH.

Last week we spoke about what it's to be. This week we want to speak about LIFE ENGAGEMENTS

***Eph 3: 14** When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, **15** the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. **16** I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. **17** And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvellous love. **18** And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. **19** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. **20** Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. **21** May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen.*

The deeper your roots are in Christ's love and power,

- The stronger your ability to withstand storms
- The greater your ability to experience His fruitful life

Botany: roots are the suppliers of nutrients; roots are the anchors of the plants. Without roots the plant is very vulnerable. It won't be able to grow at all. If the roots system is under-developed, the plant will not reach its full potential.

Now Paul prays that we develop a good root system, because there will be many challenges we have to face in life.

In order to develop a good ROOT SYSTEM, there are some LIFE ENGAGEMENTS we all have to subject ourselves to. As the title suggests, we have to ENGAGE IN LIFE.

## **LIFE ENGAGEMENT # 1:**

### **WORSHIP SERVICES: gathering in large group settings for the purpose of worship and teaching, communion, baptism and giving.**

*Acts 2: 42* They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer.

*46* They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity -- *47* all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

## **5 Decisive reasons to Prioritize worship services**

### **1. Jesus and the early disciples set the example**

*Luke 4: 16* When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.

It was his custom. His habit.

### **2. It's the primary way for us to be encouraged while we encourage ourselves.**

*Heb 10: 25* And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

When we meet at Church, ask yourself a few questions...

- Who can I engage and encourage today?
- Who can I connect with?
- Ask God to open your eyes in order to see the needs of those around us...

### **3. It's a primary way for us to be equipped as Christ-followers and to hear His word for us.**

*Eph 4: 11* He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. *12* Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, *13* until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. **14 Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because**

someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. **15** Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. **16** Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

When you come to church, come

- Expecting God to speak to you/ me. Not those around you.
- Seek to hear from God for God.
- Come ready to obey.

So there is a measure of preparedness required.

#### **4. It's the primary way for us to leave a lasting legacy to our children.**

***Deut 6:5** And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. **6**And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. **7**Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again.*

In order to build a legacy we need the church to partner with us.

#### **5. It's a primary way for us to learn to focus our Worship on Him instead of others.**

***Acts 17: 23** for as I was walking along I saw your many altars. And one of them had this inscription on it -- 'To an Unknown God.' You have been worshiping him without knowing who he is, and now I wish to tell you about him. **24** "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, **25** and human hands can't serve his needs -- for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need there is. **26** From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall and he determined their boundaries. **27** "His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God.*

When we worship, we must focus on Him. We pour out our affection, our love on Him. Mary poured out her worship onto Him. True worshippers are those give love and affection. We give of our TIME, our TALENT and our TREASURE. Yes, giving of your money is probably the purest act of true worship.

Worship is not getting from God. Worship is giving to god...

## LIFE ENGAGEMENT # 2:

**GROUP LIFE. [Small Groups]. Regularly gathering with either a friend or a small group of people to learn, encourage, support, challenge and enjoy Christ's life together.**

*Heb 10: 22 let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. 23 Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*

God uses Hope Groups to play a role in my life and your life.

In Group Life, Christ's life in me and in you will be tested.

*Jn 13: 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

Group Life is also a training ground for Christ's life in me and in you.

God will use those we see as friends and He will use those who appear to be foes.

*Ecc 4: 9 Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labour. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

Meet regularly to:

- Learn
- Encourage
- Support
- Challenge
- Enjoy Christ's life together.

## LIFE ENGAGEMENT # 3

### CONTRIBUTIONS

## LIFE ENGAGEMENT # 4

### PERSONAL DEVOTION

## LIFE ENGAGEMENT # 5

## REDEEMPTIVE RELATIONSHIPS