

Brothers & Sisters

Matt spoke to us about how the New Testament envisions us relating to one another as brothers and sisters, part of the same family. To make us more like Him, God uses 'horizontal'/peer-to-peer relationships much more than hierarchical 'top-down' ones. He calls us to be a family on mission together. We are not *like* a family, we *are* a family: *His* family!

1. We are part of the same family now. We have the same Father, and we therefore show common 'family' characteristics: The Holy Spirit in us, bearing the fruit of the spirit, etc. **(Matt 23:9)**
2. We also need to know how to accept one another **(Rom 15:7)**. We all have different temperaments, giving us spark and the ability to see things from different perspectives. However, there can also be frustration at times, as we learn to get along with people who are very different from us! **(Rom 12:13/14:13)**
3. We need to treat younger woman as sisters, thinking pure thoughts about them. **(1 Tim 5:2)**
4. Brothers and sisters watch each other's backs. We are in a fight, not against each other as rival gangs, but against the enemy and his evil strategies. We need to know each other's weaknesses and be ready to fight back to back, looking out for one another. **(1 Cor 13:7)**

Questions for discussion:

- Go around the group and talk a bit about your biological family. Did you have brothers and sisters and were you close to them?
- Matt talked about some of the 'rub' that comes with being brothers and sisters together. Although we are different in many ways, we are called to be a family together, to bear with one another, accept one another, and not pass judgement on each other. Without naming names, talk about some of the personality types that wind you up, but also how God has helped you to love people who are different to you and show kindness to others.
- Tim 5:2 instructs young men to treat younger women as sisters and not in a sexual way. Can you think about ways that we as a church can help to keep ourselves 'above reproach' in the way we interact with those of the opposite sex?
- We are called to watch each other's backs. We are to keep a look out for ways that the enemy is attempting to ensnare our brother or sister. It means pointing out the danger beforehand, at times being very direct for the benefit of our vulnerable brother or sister. Can you talk about a time when either someone has done that for you, or you have done that for someone else?

- Finally, pray together that we would have good relationships within King's, loving each other as Paul commands us in 1 Corinthians 13. Maybe take a phrase out of this chapter and pray that for each other.