

*Characteristics of the Family of God*  
**How Do You Spell 'Church'?**  
**(L - O - V - E - S)**

- **L - LOVING THE FAMILY OF GOD** (Fellowship)  
is God's people learning how to get along & supporting each other as members of God's loving Family. (Romans 12:5)  
  
-This is the foundation, the environment, that a Christian needs to grow and follow Jesus. Since the key teaching of Scriptures is God's love to save mankind (John 3:16), then it stands to reason that Christian love is the main characteristic of God's people (John 13:35).
- **O - OUTREACH\*** (Evangelism)  
is loving the world by reaching out and sharing God's wonderful message of salvation through Jesus Christ. (Colossians 4:5)  
  
-We are called to evangelize with Christ in saving souls. We are his disciples and we are to be fishers of men (Matt. 4:19). Jesus came to this world to die for and save us from our sins. As we receive the gift of salvation, we are asked to carry on the work of salvation (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:7-8, 1 Cor. 9:19-23).
- **V - VENERATION** (Worship)  
is focusing our lives on God and showing Him our love in everything that we do. Without a loving relationship with God, we cannot fulfill the other purposes. (Mark 12:30)  
  
-Loving (worshipping) God is a most important trait of the Christian (Matt. 22:34-38). As we unite as God's family to worship God on the Sabbath (Lev. 23:3), we rejoice over God as our Creator (Exo. 20:8-11) and Savior (Deut. 5:4-9). We praise and sing to God for everything that He has done for us (Eph. 5:19-20). All living thing is extolled to praise God (Psa. 150:6).
- **E - EDUCATION** (Discipleship) is growing as a Christian to be like Jesus. Restoring Christ's loving character into our life is one of the most important tasks of a Christian. (Philippians 2:5)  
  
-God's people are expected to grow in character (2 Pet. 1:5-8). Thus, the education of our young is an important responsibility of the church (Prov. 22:6, Deut. 11:18-21). We are to teach young and old alike (Titus 2:1-5). Our education is based upon God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- **S - SERVICE** (Ministry)  
is using our gifts, our talents, our passions, etc., to help others. By serving the people around us we spread God's love in the world. (1 Peter 4:10)  
  
-The church is likened to salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). We exist to represent God's love to the world. We are His body and are given gifts of ministry (1 Cor. 12:7-27; Rom. 12:3-21, Eph. 7-16) which are to be administered with God's love (1 Cor. 12:28-13:13). Evidence that we are God's children and fit for heaven is our ministry of love to others (Matt. 25:31-46).

GOD has a purpose for each of our lives. By understanding and practicing these purposes we can live a more meaningful and happier life. 4 of 5 of these purposes will continue in heaven, thus how important for us to practice them here on earth in preparation of going to heaven.

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus summarized the laws of God as love to God (1st and greatest commandment) and love to our neighbors. The 5 purposes above shows how we can fulfill God's law of love in our lives today.

***"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10***  
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