

## Layer 3: Grow in Love for One Another

The next stage of our development, following our reciprocal love for God, is an outward working of our love for others. The premise of the Christian life is the conveyance of God's love in our own lives to those around us.

In 1 John 4:21, it says that *"This is the commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."* Our love for God is primarily manifested in how we treat one another in the church.

God has given every believer supernatural abilities for the sake of loving other believers and strengthening the church. When we willingly take part in the church, we share in something supernatural, we participate in something powerful, and we get to experience something eternal.

Jesus established the church as the place we experience the true community we were created for. It is a place of encouragement, development, instruction, support, teamwork, honesty, unity, and above all, love. Loving Jesus means we also commit to be a part of what Jesus loves most—His church.

We also have an enemy who seeks to discourage, divide, and destroy. He wants to hurt Jesus by hurting what Jesus loves most – His church. So we resolve to preserve unity by giving each other grace, forgiving quickly, encouraging one another, speaking the truth in love, and submitting to one another as to Christ.

The Bible uses many illustrations for the church. We are the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, a holy temple, a royal priesthood, a flock of sheep, and a family. We are not spectators who criticize; we are not consumers who are entertained; we are not phonies who act religious. We are a community of people who love one another, just as, in Christ, God loves us.

### Part 3: The Elements of Connection

What is God's purpose for me? How can He use me?  
Where do I fit in the kingdom? Where do I fit at Grace?

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#### The Example of Christ

#### Why Being Relationally Connected is Important:

*If it's not relational, it's not ministry*

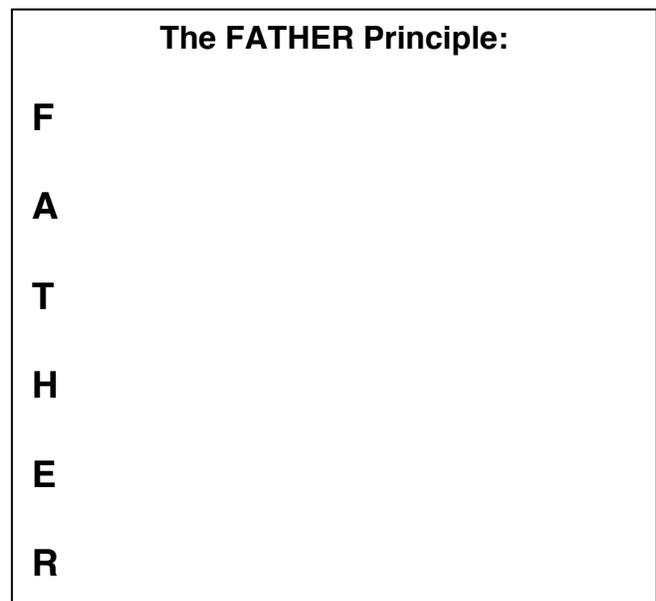
Coming to Grace vs. Staying at Grace vs. Building up Grace

#### The Design of Connecting

- 1) The LEGO Principle
- 2) A Community of Stories
- 3) Supernatural Serving

#### The Decisions of Connecting

- 1) Sundays Plus One
- 2) Character Counts



## **SCRIPTURES:**

### **Purpose & Passion:**

Psalm 138:8  
Romans 8:28  
Romans 12:3-8  
1 Corinthians 14:12  
2 Corinthians 5:1-6  
Ephesians 2:10  
Ephesians 4:29  
Philippians 2:13  
2 Thessalonians 1:11  
2 Timothy 1:9  
2 Timothy 2:21

### **Spiritual Gifts:**

Acts 8:18-20  
Romans 1:11  
Romans 12:6-8  
1 Corinthians 12:4-30  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
2 Corinthians 11:13-15  
James 1:17

### **Servanthood:**

Matthew 20:26  
Matthew 23:11  
Mark 10:45  
Galatians 5:13-15  
Galatians 6:1-10  
Philippians 2:1-11  
1 Peter 4:10

Discussion Questions:

1. Briefly explain the LEGO principle and describe how you feel it applies to you and your role at Grace.
2. Of the six parts of the FATHER acronym, which ones do you feel are easiest for you? Hardest for you?

