**BELIEVE**

**Message: We Are Family**

**Theme: Biblical Community**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman**

**Key Idea:** I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God’s purposes in my life, in the lives of others, and in the world.

**Key Verse:** Acts 2:44-47

*44All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

1. **Familified**
2. **Salvation is a Community-creating event.**
3. **For early believers, the group comes first.**

We are a radically individualistic society, oriented toward personal fulfillment in ways profoundly more ‘me-centered’ than any other culture or people-group in world history. And it is our individualism—our insistence that the personal rights and satisfaction of the individual must take priority over any group to which one belongs—that has seriously compromised our ability to stay in relationship and grow in community with one another as God intends. **Joe Hellerman**

**“Strong-Group”**

1. **How to Make Our Church More of a Family**

***I John 4:21***

*The person who loves God must also love other believers.*

***I Peter 2:17***

*Love your spiritual family.*

1. **Stability**

***Colossians 3:13-15***

*13Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

1. **Conversations**

***Colossians 3:15-16 (The Message)***

*Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense.*

***Ephesians 4:15, 25***

*speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

*25Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.*

1. **Partnership**

***Galatians 6:2***

*Share each other’s troubles and problems.*

***I Corinthians 3:9***

*We are partners working together for God.*

***Romans 12:5***

*In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

Phillip Yancy - “Often we surround ourselves with the people we most want to live with, thus forming a club, not a community. Anyone can form a club; it takes grace, shared vision, and hard work to form a community.”