

# THIS IS **US**

Learning How the Church Connects as a Family

Dr. Gary VanDeWalker  
Evangelical Free Church of Mount Shasta  
Spring 2017  
04-23-17

## **This Is Us: We connect through Fellowship**

### **Acts 2:42**

*<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

#### **What is Fellowship?**

Dictionary: community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience

Greek: *koinonia* to hold something in common

Bible: practical sharing of life in common with God and other believers

**“It is not simply to be taken for granted that the Christian has the privilege of living among other Christians.”—Dietrich Bonhoffer**

#### **Our Fellowship:**

**Fellowship is messy**

**Christian community is a reality not an ideal**

**Fellowship can bring joy**

**It may be our response to the weakest person among us  
That brings us the greatest joy**

**This is how the cross made sense to Christ  
For the Joy set before Him**

**Fellowship can lack comfort**

**Fellowship is found in Christ, not our preferences**

**Fellowship is a picture to the world of how life should be,**

**Growth comes in the wildness of Fellowship**

## **Christ's Fellowship:**

**The Trinity**

**Genesis 1:26 "Let us..."**

**The Disciples**

**Mark 2:15-17**

**The Church**

**The Groom and the Bride, Ephesians 5:25**

**Community comes through Christ**

## **What fellowship should look like in our daily lives:**

**Be part of the family.**

**Be devoted**

**Fellowship on Sunday mornings**

**Fellowship through our week**

**"it is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing." –Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**We are a family. We are individuals. We are old and we are young. We like quiet. We love drums. We admire the casual. We like being formal. We are outgoing and we are shy. We travel. We are homebodies. We love sports. We bury ourselves in books. We like simplicity. We look to be busy. We are happy and sad, mature and immature. We have believed and received and become a family.**

**....This is Us**