



– THE FAMILY OF GOD

- **God is after a family...**¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. (1 John. 3:1–2 NLT-SE)
 - Everyone on earth is in a spiritual family
 - Children don't adopt parents, parents adopt children
- **We are not only “placed,” but given a new birth when we enter God's family...**¹² To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (John. 1:12–13 NLT-SE)

– FAMILY DYNAMICS

Family dynamics...determine how the family functions as a unit. They describe how family members get along, their communication styles, how they make decisions, solve problems and share feelings. A family dynamic demonstrates the type of interaction and the level of connection among its members. Each family has unique dynamics that are determined by that family's **relational values**:

- Evangel is a place where we can **discover our destiny**
- Evangel is a place where we learn how to **recover and use our voice**
- Evangel is a place where we endeavor (try hard) to **serve other believers**
- Evangel is a place where our **faith gets tested**
- Evangel is is a place where we can **grow spiritually**

– FAMILY QUIRKS

- **Casual, yet passionate...**This is an attitude the is expressed in the way we dress, talk and organize our lives at Evangel. But just because things look casual, that doesn't mean that we're not excited about the possibilities and willing to work hard together to see amazing things happen here.
- **Individual, yet family...**Our congregational destiny (Yes, churches have specific assignments in a geographic region!) is directly linked to two things: How well we understand and live out of our identity in Christ and whether or not we have embraced the personal destiny we have through him.

Our Relational Values

As a congregation. We value unity and oneness and will endeavor by the grace of God to...

Communicate in a Christ-like manner by:

- Keeping our word.
- Having soft eyes and voice.
- Responding not reacting.
- Boldly speaking the truth in love.
- Speaking to each other's potential.

Practice unconditional love by:

- Walking in humility.
- Seeking forgiveness.
- Believing the best.

Have integrity by:

- Being congruent in all we say and do.
- Being accountable to one another.
- Keeping short accounts.

Be vulnerable by:

- Being open and honest .
- Owning our own stuff.
- Being interdependent, working as a team.

- **Honest, yet hopeful...**Being authentic is really important to our relationships. Sometimes that kind of honesty can leave you questioning whether things will ever change, ever get better. We tend to believe that anything is possible with God, even if it takes a long time for change to materialize.
- **Non-traditional, yet predictable...**No pews, no crosses, “Is this a *real* church?” Absolutely! We have some practices that you would have to consider somewhat traditional. Spending time in focused worship with song (hymns) is a non-negotiable, as is being students of the Bible (Word of God). We come to the Lord’s Table (communion) every Sunday. For us, it’s like “coming home.”
- **Unstructured, yet focused...**Looking around, Evangel seems chaotic at times. The room is full of movement and life. That said, we are extremely intentional about two things: Engaging with God and engaging with each other.
- **Expectant, yet patient and persistent...**As a congregation, we believe our church, our city and our lives are always on the verge of breakthrough. Our desire it to see the city awakened and spiritually transformed. Just because it didn’t happen yesterday, doesn’t mean we won’t see significant healing and wholeness come today. So, we keep on praying, keep on ministering and contending for more!

– FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **To show up...**²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Heb. 10:24–25 NLT-SE)
- **To love, honor and serve one another...** Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (Rom. 12:10 NLT-SE)
 - God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. (1 Pet. 4:10 NLT-SE)
- **To love each other deeply...**You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. (1 Pet. 1:22 NLT-SE)
- **To help pay the bills...**If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Tim. 5:8 NIV)
 - If a believer fails to provide for their own relatives when they are in need, they have compromised their convictions of faith and need to be corrected, for they are living worse than the unbelievers. (1 Tim. 5:8 TPT)
- **To encourage each other to rest...**² On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation. (Gen. 2:2–3 NLT-SE)
- **To forgive each other when we are offended...**¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (Col. 3:12–13 NLT-SE)



“When I think of Evangel I think of a second family, but more than that, I think of a body who sees more for people than they see in themselves and who not only gives permission to be more but calls it out of us.”

Chris Davis

Pastor at Abundant Life ~ Kelso

- **To engage with each other no matter the cost...**¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. (Rom. 12:16, 18 NLT-SE)

- Anyone interested in Greeting?

- FAMILY EXPECTATIONS

- **I will allow you walk in freedom...**¹³ You have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. (Gal. 5:13–15 NLT-SE)
- **I will let you have a place in my heart...**²² Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen,²⁴ while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. (1 Cor. 12:22–25 NLT-SE)
- **I will live like nothing is impossible for us, together...** "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." (Matt. 17:20 NLT-SE)
- **I will prepare for things to get tougher, but trust that it will only make us stronger, together...**¹⁰ If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.¹¹ Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?¹² A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (Eccl. 4:10–12 NLT-SE)
- **I understand that if I don't show up, someone will notice and I will be missed...**¹⁴ "You are the light of the world —like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matt. 5:14–16 NLT-SE)
- **I trust that if I don't give up, we all win!...**¹⁴ God always makes his grace visible in Christ, who includes us as partners of his endless triumph. Through our yielded lives he spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go.¹⁵ We have become the unmistakable aroma of the victory of the Anointed One to God. (2 Cor. 2:14–15 TPT)

"Never let success go to your head,
and never let failure go to your heart."