

## “Connect ... with God and God’s People”

Our Vision and Mission as Jesus’ Disciples, Part 2

Small Group Study

Week of Nov. 1, 2009

This week we want to go more in depth into the new statement of vision and mission by looking at our call to “connect.”

### **To Begin ...**

1. When did you first start coming to MHPC?
2. What was it about the church that caused you to want to stay and get involved?

### **Review the Sermon**

What did Mark mean by each of the following points in his sermon? Why is each way of “connecting” important?

“Connect” means ...

... starting a **personal relationship** with Jesus

*I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower .... Abide in me as I abide in you.” ” (John 14:6-7)*

... having an **abiding relationship** with Jesus

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”*  
(John 15:5)

... **developing relationships** with God’s people

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (Jn. 15:12)*

... gathering **to worship** God with God’s people

*“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. (Dt. 5:12-14)*

### **Going Deeper ...**

1. Read the following words of the apostle Paul from Philippians 2.

*<sup>7</sup>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

- a. How would you characterize Paul’s relationship with Jesus?
- b. How do we begin to deepen our relationship with Jesus in this way?

2. Read the following words of the apostle Paul from Colossians 3.

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*<sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

- a. What things are to characterize our relationships as God's people ?
- b. How do we begin to develop such relationship among God's people?

### ***Making it Personal and Practical ...***

1. How connected to God do you feel today?
2. How connected to God's people do you feel today?
3. What is one thing we can do as a group to help others in our church better connect?

### ***Praying Together ...***

1. Share concerns with one another, and pray for those concerns.
2. Continue to pray that God might use this new vision/mission statement in the life of our church congregation.