





**What is happening
at home?**

Two views of church life

I go to church



We are
the church

Which view is most prominent in the New Testament?





Two views of church life

Which view is most prominent in the New Testament?

*A new commandment I give to you,
that you **love one another**:
just as I have loved you,
you also are to **love one another**.*

*By this all people will know
that you are My disciples,
if you have **love for one another**.*

(John 13:34-35)

The churches in the New Testament were a community of redeemed people from all walks of life, living in different households, learning to serve God and each other with faith, hope and love.

**For such communities
the New Testament was written.**

Church life as community

Community → visibility

- ✓ Our manner of life
- ✓ Our relationships
- ✓ Our care for one another
- ✓ Our witness to the world

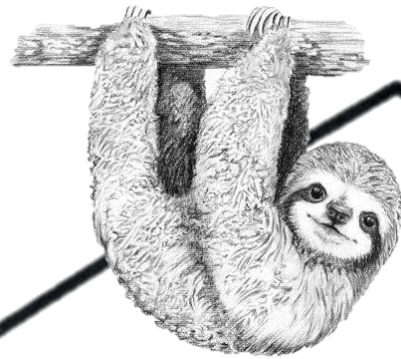
Our whole life

The sort of people we are
matters much more
than the meeting we attend.

And it all starts here



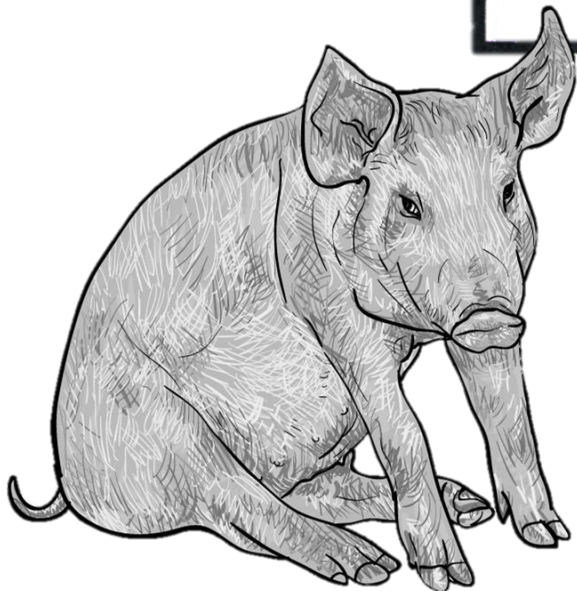
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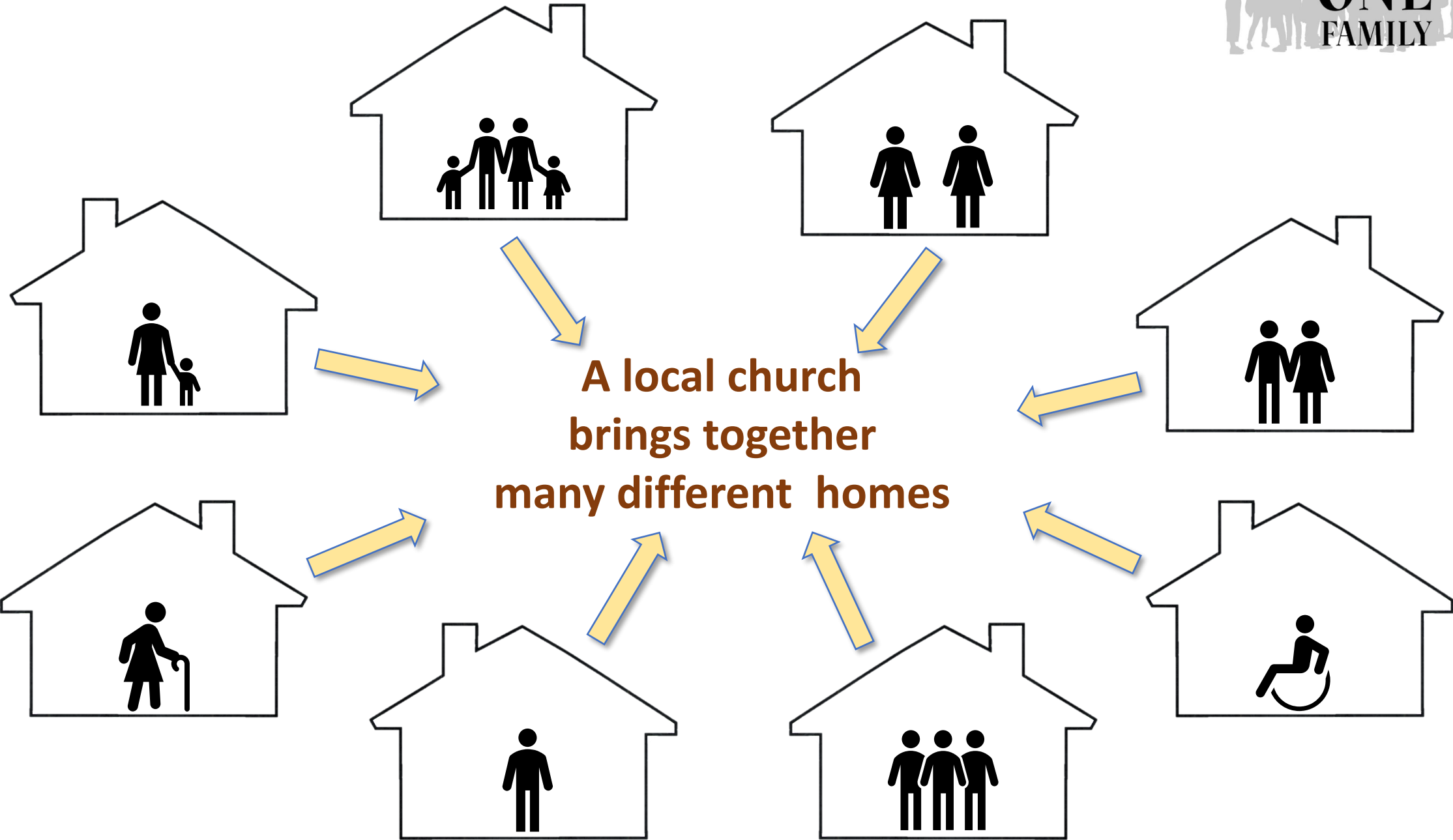
**What we are at home
is what we really are.**



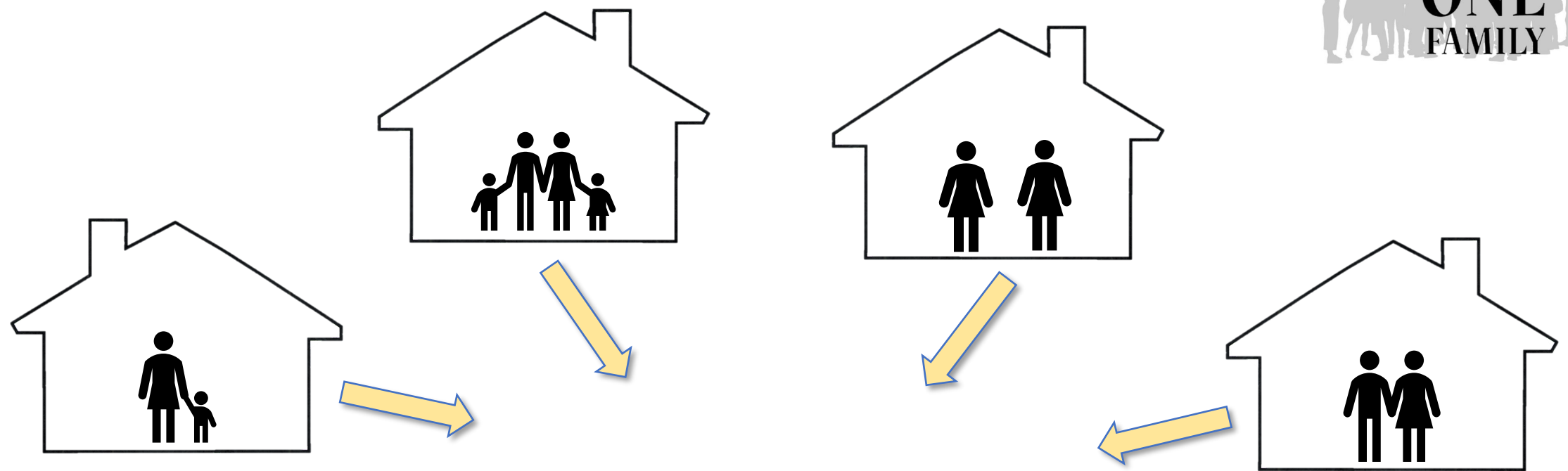
**We can't be more than
what we are at home.**



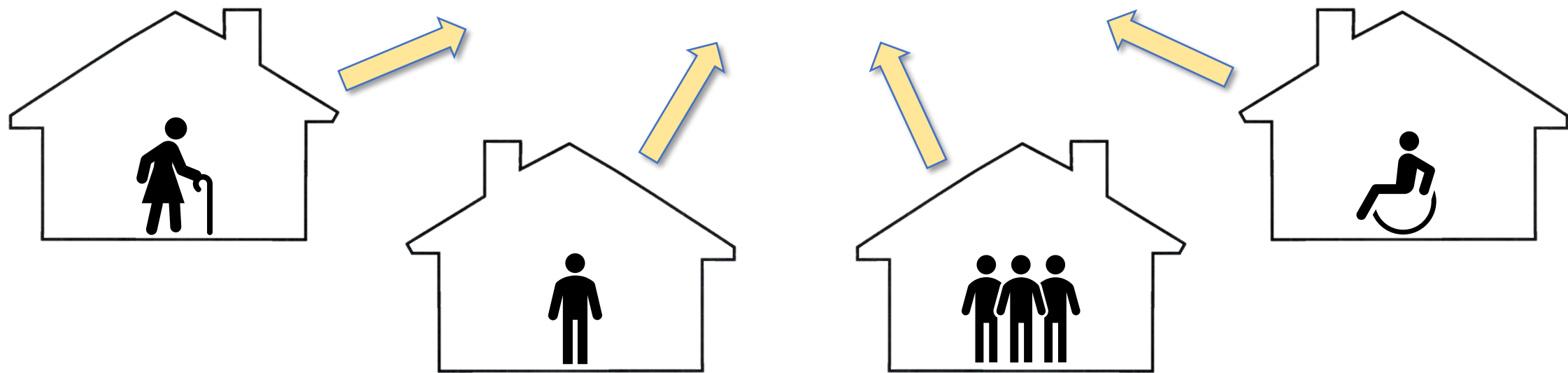
What we are at home is what we really are.



What we are at home is what we really are.



We can't be more than what we are at home.



Changing times



Which changes in society have most impacted our home life?

- ❖ **The cost of housing in the city and the cost of living**
 - Both parents work, so much parenting is “outsourced”
- ❖ **The expanding role for women in the workforce**
 - Less time for home, children and family, and more stress
- ❖ **The common beliefs about how to raise children**
 - Tied down by untrained children, making fellowship hard
- ❖ **The sexual revolution, easy divorce**
 - Uncommitted relationships, insecurity, broken homes
- ❖ **The new technologies and the online world**
 - Fewer real relationships, pornography and great darkness
- ❖ **The many opportunities that prosperity provides**
 - Busy, busy lives, rights before duties, pleasure not work

Unchanging truth

What does the Scripture teach us about home life?



Is this about home life?

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **bearing with one another** and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other**; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

(Colossians 3:12-14)

Unchanging truth

What does the Scripture teach us about home life?



Wives, **submit** to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, **love** your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

(Colossians 3:18-19)

Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

“**Honour** your father and mother” ...

Fathers, **do not provoke** your children to anger, but

bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

Unchanging truth



What does the Scripture teach us about home life?

*“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.”*

(Luke 12:1-2)



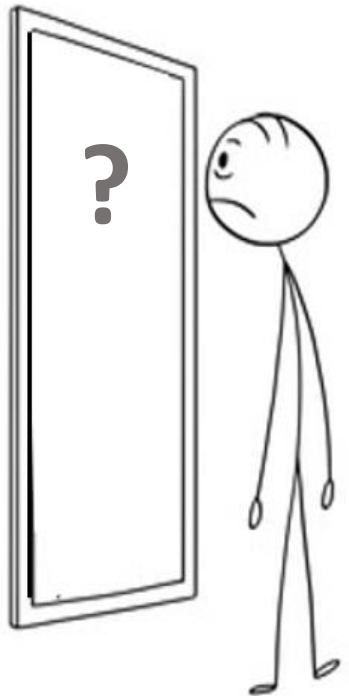
Sunday morning



The rest of the week

Looking in the mirror

- Does all your household sit down and eat together regularly?
- Can you comfortably have guests join your meals together?
- Have you been to the homes of the people you meet with?
Have they come to your home?
- Do your children enjoy your company?
Do you enjoy their company?
- Do you freely share your life with others in your household?
- Are you ready and willing to serve others in your household?
- Are you too busy or too stressed for fellowship with others?





The task before us

What?

Our home life has been significantly impacted by changes in society and technology that we have accepted without resisting the consequences.

So what?

We are falling short as a community of faith that glorifies God and that is the light of the world, like *“a city set on a hill”*.

Now what?

This is the most important question.

We need your ideas, insights and suggestions...

