

# WELCOME

The Call to Community & Mission

September 10, 2017  
The Household



This week, Corey Widmer kicked off our new series on 7 metaphors the New Testament uses to describe the church.

## READ

Ephesians 2:18-21

## REFLECT

1. During his introduction, Corey discussed two forces that contribute to our reality: individualism or "the supremacy of self" and consumerism or "the consumption of everything." How do these two concepts crop up in your life? How do they shape your habits, loves, minds, and hearts?
2. Corey discussed how the Church invites you to the counter-cultural positions of community instead of the "isolation and loneliness of individualism" and mission in place of the "purposelessness and restlessness of consumerism." He also admitted that many of our church experiences don't mirror these ideals. How have your experiences matched up with this position. If you feel comfortable, please share instances of confusion, pain, exclusion, and any positive examples of the Church providing this sort of hope and redemption in your life.
3. Corey explained how Paul uses "oikos" in order to relate with our desire to belong to a household or extended family. He referenced this desire as demonstrated by our attachment to Cheers, Friends, and Modern Family. What significance does this metaphor of the church have for you?
4. Corey discussed three qualities of the familial love dictated by the metaphor of household: "non-selectivity," "transparency," and "responsibility." How have you engaged and experienced these qualities?

## PRAY

- + Confess to God how often we focus on our own individual and consumeristic nature instead of leaning into the model that God has called us to.
- + Thank God for providing a place for us in His household.
- + Pray for renewal in our Church, our Community, and our City.

## PRACTICE

- + As we work toward the Parish launch, what steps can you take to deepen your involvement with the community, relationships, and mission that God has called us to?
- + How might you, individually or corporately, better reach out and welcome people into this household?