



World Conquerors Church
Where You Discover Who You Were Born To Be!
www.worldconquerorschurch.org
2021: THE YEAR TO RE-IMAGINE

Re-Imagine: Connect

Presented by Pastor Daren L. Barron

Sermon Notes from October 3, 2021

Connect

Colossians 1:17-18 Living Bible

17 He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together. 18 He is the Head of the body made up of his people—that is, his Church—which he began; and he is the Leader of all those who arise from the dead, so that he is first in everything;

- **Now that I know I am the church... what do I do next?**

Why don't folks want to connect

- **They don't want to disappoint (be disappointed)**
- **They don't want to be misunderstood**
- **They don't want to be bothered**
- **They don't feel a need**

We are built like a building

- **"In Christ you are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God" (Ephesians 2:22 NRSV). We are meant to fit together like bricks in a new building. It's essential that the parts of a building fit together. You aren't safe otherwise because there's no support. Likewise, those who aren't connected to a church family in any meaningful way have no support. Life is tough. We all need the support of people who care about us. World**

Conquerors Church was founded to provide that for the aimless multitude in our community, our nation, and even the world.

We are joined in a body

- **"Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others" (Romans 12: 4-5 TLB). What Jesus Christ did when He was here in His physical body, He wants to do today through the church. We are the body of Christ on Earth. We are His hands. We are His feet. All of us have to play our part. Being part of the body of Christ means we are a part of something bigger than ourselves, and if we don't play our specific part, the mission of the church is negatively impacted.**

We are born into a family

- **"I want you to know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church..." (1 Timothy 3:15 GW). This is my favorite metaphor for the church. It doesn't take any explanation. Most people think that Christianity is a belief system. There are beliefs in Christianity, but it's so much more. Christianity is a belong system. The Bible says we were born again into God's family when we became a follower of Jesus. It also says that we've been adopted into God's family. Both are great metaphors for what it should mean to be a part of the church.**
- **Because those of us who follow Christ are part of God's family, we should accept one another and love one another. Now let me be very clear here. We don't approve of everyone's behavior. That's not love. If someone is doing something hurtful or contrary to God's Word, approval is the opposite of love. But we must accept and love one another. Your family hasn't always approved of everything you've done, but – I hope – they've loved you anyway. This provides an adequate picture to Re-Imagine as we are under construction.**

We are attached to a vine

- **"Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me" (John 15:4 GW). Being connected isn't**

just a horizontal issue. It's a vertical one as well. We all need to be connected to God himself, otherwise we will have the look of being connected with no power. Jesus says when we are connected to him it's like being attached to a vine. Fruit not connected to a vine dies. It's that simple. We can have all the interpersonal relationships we want, but if those relationships are not equally connecting to God, we all miss out on the life that God wants us to have.

- **Paul continues Jesus' metaphor when he talks about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. When we're connected to the True Vine, there will be certain spiritual fruit in our lives – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. We also equated this fruit to materials needed to build strong lives. If you're connected with God, those fruit will characterize your life. And that's the kind of connection we all want.**

Connection is going to be a major focus of World Conquerors Church over the next year. We're going to make every effort to connect people based on the five biblical purposes of:

- **Knowing God**
- **Relating to God**
- **Growing in God**
- **Serving God**
- **Sharing God**