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# Compelled By Love

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## Part 6 - Walking Together

As we come to the last week of our Compelled by Love series, I want to wrap-up what we have been talking about by extending the challenge for us to walk this journey together.

We are a family with a purpose; we have a job to do in this world. That job is to help others join our family; that is, 'declare and demonstrate Christ's Kingdom', and disciple them to maturity in Christ.

This is all about walking together. It's about the relational responsibility we have to one another as family members to make an investment into each other's lives.

God designed this to take place through the church – Ephesians 3:14-19.

The family—the character, the name of the family—it is an expression of the character, the love, the grace of God. It reflects who God is.

### **The Body**

People are grafted into the community of God – into our family – and so we remember the power of the body together - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

### **Relational Responsibility = Discipleship Journey**

When we see people respond to the good news of Jesus at work in our lives, we have a relational responsibility to engage in the discipleship journey with them.

Jesus said that we would be known as His disciples because of our love for one another (John 13:34-35). This journey of following Jesus is done in relationship with one another and love becomes the glue that holds us together, our love for God and our love for one another.

## **Fathers and Mothers in the Faith - 1 Corinthians 4:14-16**

True fathers and mothers in the church are precious. We need them. We also benefit from their sons or daughters, disciples spreading the message of the gospel and demonstrating their way of life to others.

Paul - "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1) Our lives should set an example for others to follow as we follow Christ.

At Riverlife, we believe in creating loving environments where disciples can be made and people can be healed and nurtured with honour.

We want loving environments where we learn to exercise unconditional, authentic, radical Christian love. They become safe places to have the opportunity to grow and explore what Holy Spirit wants to do with us and use us for the extension of Jesus' kingdom.

An environment of love compels us to minister to one another where we seek to contribute to the growth of others as they follow Jesus. This is our relational responsibility to one another.

We are charged with bringing significance to the most significant moment of people's life – to celebrate the Good News in them!

*My command is this: love one another as I have loved you.*

**John 15:12 (NIV)**

Sometimes that love may be confrontational, sometimes painful, but always giving.

The Gospel is not only good news to anyone, anywhere, anytime – His church is open to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

*Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.*

**Psalm 27:10 (NIV)**

*God sets the lonely in families...*

**Psalm 68:6 (NIV)**

The world is crying out for a family and we get to be this expression of the greatest family of all – the family of God!

What can you do as a member of God's family to be more the type of family God had always hoped and planned for?

We are all called to walk with others. We do this together as a family; the 'body' builds itself up, it celebrates, mourns and grows together.

## **Activation**

- + Take a walk with someone.
  
- + Invite someone to do Alpha with you. Alpha online via Zoom from 7.30-8.45pm each Thursday from 16 July to 17 September. Email [church@riverlifechurch.org.au](mailto:church@riverlifechurch.org.au) to register your spot and find out more details.
  
- + Disciple someone! If you know someone who has recently come to faith in Jesus, then get a hold of our 'Starting Out' material and catch-up with them to talk about how they can be grounded in their newfound faith.
  
- + Hospitality. As restrictions ease and you can once again have people over, share a meal - it might be a neighbour, a work colleague or friend or it may be someone from our Riverlife family.

## Discussion Questions

1. What would it look like within your group if you were to become more interdependent upon one another?
2. Share from a time when you have experienced the benefits of a loving environment. How do we best provide this environment for those who are new to following Jesus and are looking for a family to belong to?
3. What do you think it means to be relationally responsible when walking with someone towards intimacy with God? This is the discipleship journey.
4. What attitudes or behaviours need to be evident in our lives if we are to walk with others in supporting them in their journey with Jesus?