



# A SEAT AT THE TABLE

## **A Seat at the Table // Part 7**

### **Introduction**

This week Matt concludes the new series called 'A Seat at the Table' with 'Part 7'. What is the table and who gets a seat? If the church is the table where people come to be fed, who is this table for?

This week we finished looking at the table as a whole. Matt talked about some questions last week: 'What makes a healthy table (church)? And ' How do you define healthy? We'll help to answer those questions by looking at the final 3 pillars of the 5 pillars of a healthy table (church). The first 2 pillars that we looked at last week are:

**Pillar #1 a healthy table is filled with contributors.**

**Pillar #2 a healthy table has a laser focus.**

### **Questions:**

1. As we look at what makes a healthy table (church), why is it important for each part (chair) to do its work? How can you know the work (your calling) that is your part to do in building & growing the body of Christ? **Ephesians 4:1, Ephesians 4:11-16**
2. **Pillar #3 a healthy table isn't about perfection; it's about progress.** What's wrong with having perfection as the expectation if you want to be spiritually mature? How can that lead to spiritual schizophrenia? What does that have to do with wearing a mask at church? Do you have 'church life' on Sunday & 'real life' the rest of the week?
3. What does the statement "No mess, no ministry" mean? Do you agree that if you're going to deal with people, there's going to be a mess? Is the mess worth

the results? As you look at your life, are you making progress? What should progress look like? **Proverbs 14:4**

4. **Pillar #4 a healthy table has an outward approach.** What does that statement mean? Why have you been uniquely & individually gifted by God? Do you believe that you were created for a specific purpose? **1 Peter 4:10**
5. What will you find at the intersection of your gifts, abilities, experiences and passions? Helpful questions to understand your calling:
  - a. What are your unique life experiences?
  - b. How has God gifted you?
  - c. What are you passionate about?
  - d. What are you good at?
6. **Pillar #5 a healthy table is willing to take risks.** Do you know that many of the ideas that changed the world were ideas that nobody thought would work? What would have happened if those people gave up on their ideas because of discouragement?
7. How would you answer this question: “If you could do anything for God and not fail what would you do?” As you think about what God may be calling you to do, can you dream big?

**Key takeaway: *When was the last time you took a risk for the glory of God? When was the last time you stepped out in faith, and dreamed big dreams for God because a healthy table is all about contributors, it's all about a laser focus, it's all about progress, it's all about an outward approach, and it's all about having the faith to take risks in order to do great things for God.***

### **Summary:**

- The church should grow and build itself up as each part does its work
- #3 A healthy table isn't about perfection; it's about progress & progress is looking more like Jesus today than yesterday
- No mess, no ministry but the mess is worth the results
- #4 A healthy table has an outward approach
- God created us individually for a purpose, intersection of gifts, abilities, experiences & passions is sweet spot of your ministry
- #5 A healthy table is willing to take risks, it's willing to fail
- If you could do anything for God and not fail, what would you do?