

TOGETHER Is Better!

Our Joys, Our Challenges and our Disappointments all have one common thread we were never designed to go through them alone...

The Garden Of Eden

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone... - Genesis 2:18

What is striking is that the fall has not yet occurred. There is no sin, no disobedience, nothing to mar the relationship between man and God. The human being is in a state of perfect intimacy with God. Each word he and God speak with each other is filled with closeness and joy, he walks with God in the garden in the cool of the day. He is known and loved to the core of his being by omniscient, love-filled Creator. Yet the word God uses to describe him is ‘alone.’ And God says that aloneness is NOT GOOD. Sometimes in church circles when people feel lonely, we will tell them not to expect too much from human relationships, that there is inside every human being a God-shaped void that no other person can fill. That is true. But apparently, according to the writer of Genesis, God creates inside this man a kind of ‘human-shaped-void’ that God Himself will not fill. No substitutes will fill this need in you for human relationships. Not money. Not achievements. Not busyness. Not books. Not even God Himself. Even though this man was in a state of sinless perfection, he was ‘alone.’ And it was not good.” - John Ortberg

We were fashioned by a God whose deepest joy is connection with Himself, a God who created us to enjoy the pleasure He enjoys by connecting supremely with Him and with each other. To experience the joy of connection is life; to not experience it is death to our souls, death to our deepest desires, death to everything that makes us human. – Larry Crabb

God created us all with a ‘community gene,’ an inborn, intentional, inescapable part of what it means to be human. This relational ‘DNA’ or ‘community gene,’ helps to explain why churches need small groups. People don’t come to church simply to satisfy spiritual needs. They come to us internally wired with a desire for connection. - Bill Donahue

The silent churning at the core of our being is the tormenting need to know and be known, to understand and to be understood, to possess and be possessed, to belong unconditionally and forever without fear of loss betrayal or rejection. - Gilbert Bilezikian

We need more than the Bible in order to grow; we need other believers. We grow faster and stronger by learning from each other and being accountable to each other. - Rick Warren

The Garden Of Gethsemane

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. – John 17:20-23

Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful – Christian community is the final apologetic. – Francis Schaeffer.

The Early Church

None of us can do - what All of us can do...

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

– Acts 2:42-47

The early church Got It!

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. – Acts 5:42

The Grove

The Early Church got it and we are getting it!

Our goal, our desire is to become a church 'of small groups' not just a church one that has small groups.

It is our goal to have 75% - 80% of our adults in a Sermon based Life Group (214-228)... as of right now 143 have signed up!