

2000s: Developing Deep Faith Relationships

October 22-23, 2016

INTRODUCTION: Two plants...two soils

Ecclesiastes 4:9

(Unless otherwise noted, verses are from New International Version)

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. (NLT)

Community with God

Created from community to live in community

- Genesis 1:26 ***Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...'***
- John 17:21-22 ***"...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one."***

(My notes)

What does community with God look like?

- Matthew 6:9 ***...Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...***
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18a ***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...***

Community with Others

How have you seen community change in the span of your lifetime?

Living in Christian community:

- Romans 12:4-5 **Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (NLT)**

(My Notes)

- Hebrews 10:24-25a **And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing...**

(My Notes)

Life Groups develop adult faith relationships:

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 **Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰ If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹¹ Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? ¹² A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (NLT)**

CONCLUSION:

Build your community:

1. Worship God with your brothers and sisters in Christ here at your church every Sunday.
2. If you are in a Life Group and you love your Life Group, be open to God's nudge and maybe even a shove to lead a new Life Group.
3. If you are faithful in your worship, but you have yet to join a Life Group, prayerfully examine the reasons you give for not being in a Life Group.

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: Read *1 John 3:1*. If you are God's child and he is the Father of all Christians, what does this tell you about your relationship to other believers?

Tuesday: "Fellowship" comes from the Greek word *koinonia*, which means "sharing in common." God has given you much to share. As you examine the following verses, determine what you can share with others and one practical way to share it. Read *1 John 4:11, 21; Galatians 6:2, 6; and James 5:16*.

Wednesday: Read *Matthew 5:22-24*. Christians fellowship together on the basis of the fact that they are forgiven sinners - forgiven, yes, but still sinners. Knowing this fact, what is your responsibility toward your brother when you have offended him?

Thursday: Read *Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*. According to each of these passages, why is fellowship important? Explain how you have personally been sharpened and strengthened in Christian fellowship.

Friday: Read *Acts 2:42-47*. What activities of the church in Jerusalem are mentioned? What are signs in these passages that the early church experienced deep and powerful community? What was the impact of this community on the world?

Saturday: Each believer is given different but important responsibilities in the body of the church. Read *1 Corinthians 12:14-27*. Who gave the members their various functions? (V. 18) What is God's desire? (V. 25) What attitudes can lead to disharmony in the body? (Vv. 15, 16, 21)