

The Church: A connected community

The Christian life is designed for COMMUNITY

- Community is a concept taken from the TRINITY and is present even before creation
- God is PERSONS in community

Genesis 1: 26-27 - Then God said, "Let US make man in OUR image, in OUR likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:18- The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be ALONE. I will make a helper suitable for him."

- Understanding community helps us understand CHURCH

The local church is a COMMUNITY of regenerate believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and communion, and are unified in the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy

- The church is a community of PEOPLE that God has called out to make His glory known to the world.

Exodus 6:7- I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God

- By becoming a CHRISTIAN you belong to God and you belong to your brothers and sisters
- I am a person in community

The Christian life is designed for CONNECTION - Acts 2:42-47

- The new testament word for community is koinonia which is now translated as FELLOWSHIP and is linked to words like common, sharing and participation
- The church is a LOVING community that devotes itself to FELLOWSHIP
- fellowship is Gods people living together in INTENTIONAL, relational community to seek the well being of one another in every way, including physical, spiritual, material, and emotional
- We were not created for isolation but for relation and connection
- Church is not another ball to juggle in our busy schedule it's who you are, it's what DEFINES you and what gives CHRIST-LIKE shape to your life.

The Christian life is designed for CONTRIBUTION

- A call to the Christian COMMUNITY is a call to UNITY and ACTION
- The Church is to be a light to the world

Matthew 5:16- let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Acts 13: 47 - For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

- A connected community of believers ALWAYS CONTRIBUTING to the efforts of GROWING God's kingdom.
- What sort of things are you doing to ensure that you are a contributing part of the connected Christian community?

Create around you a group of Christians who will share their lives and encourage one another in the faith.