



REAL COMMUNITY TRANSFORMS

Genesis 2:18; Romans 12:4-5

Genesis 2:18, Then the LORD God said, “It is **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

The Benefits of True Community

1) True community pleases God’s heart.

John 13:34-35, ³⁴A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Psalms 133:1 (ESV), Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

2) True community helps us grow.

Proverbs 27:17, As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

❖ Godly community brings **exposure** and **encouragement**.

Romans 12:9-10, ⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

3) True community keeps us safe.

Proverbs 18:1-2 (ESV), ¹Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. ²A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, ⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

4) True community gives us purpose.

Romans 12:4-5, ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Three Hindrances to True Community

1) Offense

Proverbs 19:11 (ESV), Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 18:19 (ESV), A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.

Leviticus 19:18, Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

2) Pride

Romans 12:16, Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:16 (NLT), Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

3) Insecurity

John 3:16, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?