

11/03/19 Sermon Notes

Part of Begin the Journey

November 1, 2019

Series: Begin the Journey

Message: Hand In Hand

Jesus designed the church to bring us together, because we were never designed to do life alone!

You were created for COMMUNITY!

The belief that filling a seat is the equivalent of being the church - is messed up! It's a lie! It's playing church! God didn't design the New Testament church as a theatre, a place you go to listen and hear but not participate. It's a place where you go, plug-in... we call that connecting, and at some point, your spiritual journey brings you to a place where you stop taking and you start giving. At that point, you stop playing church and you start being the church!

—Pastor Chad

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

- God CHOSE you
- to become like JESUS

Let's make that personal:

God knew **YOU** before you were born, and God chose **YOU** to become like **JESUS!**

God does this for your good and for His glory!

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

So encourage each other and build each other up...

Practical Ways We Grow Together (Hand in Hand)

- You grow together when you AFFIRM each other

You can affirm one another:

- with ACCEPTANCE (Romans 15:7 NLT | Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.)
- with ATTENTION (Galatians 6:10 NCV | When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.)
- with AFFECTION (Romans 12:10 NLT | Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.)
- with APPRECIATION (1 Thessalonians 5:12 NCV | Now, brothers and sisters, we ask you to appreciate those who work hard among you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you.)

- You grow together when you PRAY for each other

1. Colossians 4:12 NCV
2. Ephesians 3:17-19 TLB
3. Hebrews 13:21 CEV
4. Romans 15:13 NCV
5. Ephesians 1:17 GW
6. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 CEV
7. Ephesians 3:16 NIV
8. Romans 5:15 MSG

- You grow together when you are HONEST with each other

Ephesians 4:25 (NCV)

...Tell each other the truth, because we all belong to each other in the same body.

Four benefits of honesty:

- Emotional HEALING (James 5:16 TLB)
- Fresh START (Proverbs 28:13 TLB)
- Power to CHANGE (James 4:10 NLT)
- Deeper FELLOWSHIP (1 John 1:7 TEV)

- You grow together when you ENCOURAGE each other

Romans 1:12 (NCV)

I mean that I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.

You were created by God to love, grow, serve, and share. We do that at Fellowship through our six purposes (we believe it's the six purposes of the church):

1. Worship passionately
2. Evangelize lovingly
3. Disciple intentionally
4. Minister equally
5. Fellowship regularly
6. Pray daily

I'll just put it out there - stop playing church. Stop occupying a seat, being a spectator, watching from the sidelines - connect, plug-in, become part of changing our world, one life at a time - I invite you!

—Pastor Chad

What's the “status” of your relationship?

1. What's the status of your relationship with Jesus
2. What's the status of your relationship with His church