

ALONGSIDERS

# FIVE MOVEMENTS



# INTERDEPENDENCE

THE ESSENCE OF GOD

way of bearing witness  
path of formation/belonging



way of bearing witness -

"I give you a new command, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"

-- **John 13:34-35**



## path of formation/belonging -

"As God's chosen people, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony"

- **Colossians 3:12-14**





**Week 1** - The essence of God, the eternal and internal nature of God is relationality - Father, Son, Spirit - love is at the center of God's social reality.

**Week 2** - At the core of our being human we are designed for and defined by our relationships. Fundamentally we are relational souls. If love is at the center of God's relational nature, and we bear the image of God, then love is the witness in and through our relationships.



**Week 3** - One of the reasons God is so protective of the earth and one of the reasons He charged us with "keeping" and caring for it is because He is singing through it, glorifying Himself through it. That alone should produce in us a deep appreciation for the creation and passionate worship for the One who made it.



**Week 4** - God loves all, we can't. We are limited in our human capacity to love all. This doesn't mean we don't believe or act in love toward people. It doesn't suggest that people are outside the love and gaze of God. It doesn't mean we don't have "feelings" or "actions" of love, empathy, compassion for the peoples of the world. It simply means the romantic phrase "we must love all human beings" as a kind of universal intention does not appear in the Bible. What we do read is a more realistic ethic of love that is neighborly, responsible, and faithful.









"God draws near to us in such a way as to draw us near to himself  
within the circle of his knowing of himself." --Thomas Torrance



1. We trust God
2. God trusts us
3. We trust each other



## We trust God

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;" --Proverbs 3:5 NIV

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal." --Isaiah 26:4 NIV

"Commit your way to the Lord: trust in him..." --Psalms 37:5 NIV



## God trusts us

"Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.

"The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power..."--Job 1:8 & 12





## Trust each other

"It (love) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." – 1 Cor. 13:7

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." 1 John 1:3

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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." –John 17:20-21



“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- Hebrews 10:23-25







"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."





# Reflect the Light

