

Living in Community
February 26, 2017
Pastor Gordon

"When David escaped from the town of Gath, he went to Adullam Cave. His brothers and the rest of his family found out where he was, and they followed him there. A lot of other people joined him too. Some were in trouble, others were angry or in debt, and David was soon the leader of four hundred men." (1 Samuel 22:1-2, CEV)

*"David son of Jesse ruled over all Israel for 40 years. He ruled in Hebron for seven years and in Jerusalem for 33. He died at a ripe old age, wealthy and respected.
(1 Chronicles 29:26-28, GNB)*

"For David served God's purposes in his own time, and then he died. (Acts 13:36, GNB)

WHY SHOULD I LIVE IN COMMUNITY

1. I can experience God's **PRESENCE**

"And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." (Matthew 18:20, The Message)

"...let the Spirit fill your life. When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you praise the Lord with all your heart." (Ephesians 5:18-19, CEV)

"My friends: I myself feel sure that you are full of goodness, that you have all knowledge, and that you are able to teach one another." (Romans 15:14, GNT)

2. I can engage in God's **WORK**

*"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."
(1 Corinthians 12:25-26, MSG)*

"My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love." (Galatians 5:13, CEV)

3. I can express God's **LOVE**

"If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." (John 13:35, GNT)

"Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person." (Philippians 2:2, CEV)

"Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13, TLB)

4. I can encourage God's **PEOPLE**

"Both of us need help. I can help make your faith strong and you can do the same for me. We need each other." (Romans 1:12, NLV)

*"My friends, we beg you to warn anyone who isn't living right. Encourage anyone who feels left out, help all who are weak, and be patient with everyone."
(1 Thessalonians 5:14, CEV)*

To Be All God Created Me To Be I Need Community

"In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? " (Romans 12:4-6, The Message)

Action: **GET** in a Group and **GATHER** each week