

The Need for Christian Community

Every Christian lives between two great moments: the moment you believed in Jesus... and the moment you will see Him face to face!

What does God want to do in you between those two moments?

1 Thessalonians 3:13 says that God wants to **establish your heart** so that you stand **holy and blameless** before Him at the coming of the Lord Jesus.

What does God use to make that happen? He uses **other Christians in your life.**

TO STAND HOLY AND BLAMELESS WHEN JESUS RETURNS, YOU NEED CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

I want to give you **five reasons** from 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 why you need Christian community.

Reason #1 – You Need People Who Check on Your Faith (1 Thessalonians 3:1–2)

When was the last time someone reached out to you and asked, “How’s your faith?” “How’s your heart?” “How’s your walk with the Lord?”

And just as important—
when was the last time *you* reached out to someone else and asked them the same questions?

Paul didn't send Timothy just to "hang out." He sent him **with a purpose**: "to establish and exhort them concerning their faith."

Reason #2 – You Need People Who Hold You Up in Trials (1 Thessalonians 3:3–5)

God loves you greatly. but Satan greatly hates what God is doing in you.

When God begins to work in your life, Satan turns the heat up against you.

No Christian is exempt.

So when trials come—and they will—what do you need?

You need people who will **hold you up**. That's exactly why Timothy was sent to Thessalonica. He came to remind them of the truth.

He reminded them that suffering does not mean God is against you.

He reminded them that Jesus warned us, "In this world you will have trouble."

He reminded them that those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will face opposition.

Timothy held them up by helping them **interpret their trials biblically**. He said what you're going through is exactly what God's Word told you would happen, so hang in there.

Reason #3 – You Need People Who Celebrate Your Progress (1 Thessalonians 3:6–8)

Do you have people in your life that you can call and say, “Here’s what God is doing in me,” and you know, before you even make the call, that they’re going to rejoice with you?

Are *you* that kind of person for others? Are you someone people reach out to because they know you’ll celebrate what God is doing in their life?

For Paul, real living was knowing that the people he invested in were making progress in their walk with the Lord. The apostle John said something similar: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

You need people like that in your life.

Reason #4 – You Need People Who Long to Be With You (1 Thessalonians 3:9–11)

Meaningful relationships are what make life rich.

If you have meaningful friendships in your local church, the likelihood that you keep showing up increases dramatically.

And when you keep showing up—singing with God’s people, spending time with believers, and sitting under the teaching of God’s Word—the likelihood that you keep growing also increases dramatically.

God longs to grow you and mature you between the day you were saved and the day you see Jesus.

And one of the primary tools He uses is **meaningful relationships with other believers**.

Reason #5 – You Need People Who Practice Christian Love With You (1 Thessalonians 3:12–13)

Christian community is where the *nitty-gritty* of Christianity happens. Your patience gets tested in community. Your blind spots become visible in community. Your weaknesses start to show up in community.

God wants to grow your patience. He wants to correct your blind spots. He wants to turn your weaknesses into strengths. So how does God do that work in you?

Through **practicing Christian love** with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Learning to love people who are not perfect...and learning to be loved by people who know you're not perfect... is the environment God uses to establish your heart blameless and holy before Him at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

When you increase in love, God calls your heart blameless.

Don't just show up to church.
Be someone who **sets the tone**.

Be someone who practices Christian love. Be someone who creates a community where others can truly grow, mature, and thrive as they wait for Jesus to return.