

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Rhythms of Grace | Part 3: Belong to His Body (Fellowship)

## **Psalm 122:1 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

## **Acts 2:44 (NLT)**

<sup>44</sup>And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

## **Acts 4:32 (NLT)**

<sup>32</sup>All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

**John 13:35 (NLT)** <sup>35</sup>“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

**Participation in a church is essential to the spiritual health of individual Christians.**

## **Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)**

<sup>24</sup>Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup>And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

## **Hebrews 3:12-13 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup>Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

**David Mathis:** *“When the desire to avail yourself of hearing his voice (in the word) has dried up, and when your spiritual energy is gone to speak into his ear (in prayer), God sends his body to bring you back. It is typically not the wanderer’s own efforts that prompt his return to the fold, but his brothers’ (James 5:19-20), being to him a priceless means of God’s grace – the invaluable backstop...It is not only God’s word and prayer that are the means of his ongoing grace, but true fellowship among those who have in common the one who is Grace incarnate (Titus 2:11).”*

**Christian fellowship runs much deeper than hanging out for food and fun.**

**In genuine fellowship, we are deeply committed to selflessly loving one another.**

**Christian community is centered around Christ, His values, and His mission.**

**Lifeshouse Core Values: Know, Grow, LIVE, and Give**

**LIVE:** *Sharing our journey together through authentic relationships in Christ-centered community is how we should live.*

**Lifehouse Vision Statement:** *“As a community of authentic believers led by the Holy Spirit, we long to see our city embrace and follow Jesus, to see broken lives and families restored; to help God’s people multiply in love and good deeds, for all to discover the abundant and satisfying life Jesus has in mind for them.”*

**We were made to worship Jesus together!**

**Revelation 7:9-10 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they were shouting with a great roar,

“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”

**David Mathis:** *“Corporate worship is the single most important means of grace and our greatest weapon in the fight for joy, because like no other means, corporate worship combines all three principals of God’s ongoing grace: his word, prayer, and fellowship. It is corporate worship, with its preaching and sacraments and collective praises, confessions, petitions, and thanksgivings, which most acutely brings together the gifts of God’s voice, his ear, and his body.”*

**Donald S. Whitney:** *“There’s an element of worship and Christianity that cannot be experienced in private worship or by watching worship. There are some graces and blessings that God gives only in ‘meeting together’ with other believers.”*

**Martin Luther:** *“At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.”*

## **5 Benefits of Corporate Worship**

1. Awakening
2. Assurance
3. Advance
4. Accepting Another’s Leading
5. Accentuated Joy

**The secret to genuine joy: self-forgetfulness.**

**Psalm 100:2 (NLT)**

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing with joy.