

EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF MORE

Answering the Ache for Life to be More

Community

“May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples.” **GENESIS 28:3**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

LUKE 10:25-37

“Community”

We were created to not “be alone” (Gn 2:18). That doesn’t mean we can’t enjoy solitude or social separation. But there is a fundamental interdependence and social-connectedness about our lives that must be expressed with other people - the circle of our society, community, church, friends, and family – those ‘we do life with’. Our need for this shared life is so profound that it can become the principle source of our sorrow, frustration, anxiety and alienation in the world. In this series we are talking about “expanding the circle of more” and one of the circles we must manage and seek to make larger is the circle of true community. We must expand this circle in the same way that we enlarge our sense of humanity and God’s divinity in our lives – by investment, involvement and participation. The community that we seek, the community that we want to grow, can only be formed and founded by:

1. mutual decision and desire
2. mutual benefit and blessing
3. mutual purpose and meaning

NEXT WEEKEND: special guest – Danielle Strickland