



THE FUNDAMENTAL LIST

RECOVERING THE ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH

The Fundamental List - Part Six

In every generation, new and sometimes toxic opinions get woven into streams of Christianity. Which is why it is essential to remembering one primary fact— the starting point and the ending point for understanding what God is like, is Jesus. Through his death and resurrection, we have community not only with God, but also each other, in the form of life that the scriptures call *ecclesia*.

Getting Started

1. When you think about your life as it pertains to friendship and *ecclesia*, what is the defining season of community that comes to mind?

What About You?

2. In your experience, what changes about you when you're isolated? How does your mood, outlook, philosophy shift?
3. Do you think physical presence is as important as tech skeptics claim? Or is technology rendering the the need to physically "show up" less necessary, in your view?
4. Has community ever made a difference during a tough season in your life?
5. Most people admire Jesus as a leader and historical figure, while also holding negative views of Christians. What is it that they like about Jesus? What fails to transfer to his followers?



Look It Up

Matthew 16:13–20. 1 Corinthians 12:12,27. Hebrews 10:23–25.

6. What does Jesus identify as the central truth of his church, here?
7. What does the incarnation— God made human— tell us about the nature of God? How He views His creation?
8. What principles and phenomena do you think Paul had in mind when he likened the universal scattering of believers to one *body*? Why use that particular metaphor?
9. What role did the gathering play in the life of the earliest Jesus followers? How has this Dynamic changed? What hasn't changed about it?

Putting It All Together

10. As technology and social change accelerate, have you found yourself de-emphasizing the importance of physically showing up to be with other believers? How can you re-center this vital aspect of your spiritual health?
11. What is unique about *ecclesia*, as opposed to other forms of friendship? What steps can you take to more intentionally lean in to these aspects of community?
12. When you look at the world around you, what roles do you see for the gathering of believers to play? Where can we be agents of positive change?
13. If you've been letting it slide, will you commit to prioritizing showing up for the rest of 2023?

