

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Journeying Together: The Importance of Christ-Centred Community

With Jerry Maniate  
July 23, 2023



- **Our human need for belonging.**

Where do we find belonging? Family, Guilds, Clubs, Neighbourhoods

- **What is a “community”?**

“a community is a group of people that care about each other & feel they belong together.”

- **Experience authentic belonging in a Christ-centered community.**

Psalm 133 (NLT) *A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> How wonderful and pleasant it is  
when brothers live together in harmony!

<sup>2</sup> For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil  
that was poured over Aaron's head,  
that ran down his beard  
and onto the border of his robe.

<sup>3</sup> Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon  
that falls on the mountains of Zion.

And there the LORD has pronounced his blessing,  
even life everlasting.

Ephesians 2: 8 – 10 (NLT) God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

*Eugene Patterson writes: “Our membership in the church is a corollary of our faith in Christ. We can no more be a Christian and have nothing to do with the church than we can be a person, and not be in a family. Membership in the church is a basic spiritual fact for those who confess Christ as Lord. It is not an option for those Christians who happen by nature to be more gregarious than others. It is part of the fabric of redemption.”*

- **Harmony among Christians is a sight to behold.**

- **There can be harmony without uniformity.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 this week

- **There can be harmony without unanimity.**

- **Encourage deep engagement in my local church community.**

2 Corinthians 5: 11-21 “we are Christ's ambassadors.”

- **Create meaningful action in my local church community.**

- **Being present for each other.**

- **Listening to each other.**

- **Sharing the burdens.**

- **Praying for each others.**

- **Journeying together during the difficult times.**

James 2: 14-20, 26 (NLT) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? <sup>15</sup> Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, <sup>16</sup> and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? <sup>17</sup> So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. <sup>18</sup> Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.” <sup>19</sup> You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. <sup>20</sup> How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? <sup>26</sup> Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

**Big Idea: Embrace Gospel Community to experience human flourishing.**

- 1) **You are wanted and pursued by God – so you can trust Him.**

- 2) **The local church is God's plan for Christ-centered community – so commit to one.**

- 3) **Journey together as a Christ-centered community, through Impact Communities.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's service  
are from the New Living Translation (NLT).*



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
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To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

**Journeying Together**  
**#4 of 11 - July 23, 2023**

- 1) Last week we looked at Psalm 122 and the importance of gathering together for corporate worship. How was God speaking to you through this message? What action steps is the Lord asking you to take going forward?
- 2) Read Psalm 133 . What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us as we journey with God?
- 5) What does harmony look like in the context of the the people of God? What makes harmony challenging in the local church?
- 6) Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What has God done to bring us into the Church - the family of God? How does this make true community possible?
- 7) Read James 2:14-26. What does engagement in the context of the Church family look like?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage? Take some time to consider the following action steps.
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- 10) The local church is God's plan for Christ-centered community – so commit to one.
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