

Family of Families
What We Do: Gather
Ephesians 4:1-6;16
Kevin Canterbury

1. God's Vision for His Church

The Call to Community: Why Your Faith Isn't Private

Ephesians 4:1–6 NET

I, therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all...

Ephesians 4:16 NET

...From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body grows in love.

More Than Forgiveness: A Purposeful Salvation

- Your salvation is not just about forgiveness, it's about purpose.

Beyond Justification: Called to Mission

2. The Myth of Private Faith: God's Design for Fellowship

The Communal Nature of Scripture

The "One Another" Commands: A Call to Interdependence

[These should all be listed at once]

- Love one another (John 13:34-35; Romans 13:8; 1 John 3:11, 4:7, 4:11)
- Be devoted to one another in love; honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Admonish/teach one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32)
- Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak the truth in love to one another (Ephesians 4:25 - implied in context)
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13, 10:25)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

God's Relational Nature: Our Model

3. Roadblocks to Engagement: Why We Resist Community

- "I Don't Have Time" (The Priority Problem)

Ephesians 5:15–16 ESV

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

- "I Don't Want to Get Hurt" (The Vulnerability Barrier)
- "I Don't Want to Be Held Accountable" (The Commitment Challenge)

Accountability isn't a leash; it's a lifeline.

4. Our Call to Engage: Community at Vail Christian Church

Connecting in Community

- We connect to other Christ-followers in community for support, spiritual growth, and fellowship.
 - Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings: We gather in rows to worship God corporately, to hear His Word, and to connect with the larger body.
 - Community Groups: During the week, we gather in circles. These smaller groups are where authentic relationships are forged, where you can apply the "one another" commands, and where true spiritual growth often happens.
 - Serving: This is how we give of our time and talents to help facilitate the gathering and spiritual journey for others.
- We purposefully engage in life with others and lead them toward faith in Jesus Christ, welcoming questions of life and faith and demonstrating life in Christ.

Reproducing and Multiplying

- We reproduce ourselves on all levels, establishing Christ-followers, duplicating healthy marriages, building faith into the next generation, creating dynamic leaders, and planting churches.

Be a Participant, Not a Spectator

*****[New Slides, graphics in background]*****

Making Room for Growth

Our Immediate Next Step: Auditorium Expansion

- Closing off the movable walls and deleting the Southwest exit.
- Add 150 more seats to bring us to a total of 450 seats.

- Relocate the stage to the center of the room.

Our Timeline and How You Can Help!

- Help with tearing out and constructing the new stage.
- Help move big items like this screen and some of the ceiling equipment.
- Help clean and set up the auditorium during the project.
- Help feed the people who are doing the work!
- And for our tech-savvy folks, we need people who know how to connect equipment back together!