

COMMUNITY HELPS EACH OTHER GROW

*For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him--and all along he knew who would--should become like his Son...*

Romans 8:29 (LB)

➤ Key Question: How can we grow by helping each other grow?

*Encourage each other and build each other up.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

❖ By AFFIRMING each other's WORTH.

*Why do you look down on another Christian? Remember each of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of God.*

Romans 14:10 (NLT)

*God works through different people in different ways.*

1 Corinthians 12:6

1. Show equal acceptance.

*Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you...*

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

2. Give focused attention.

*Give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.*

Galatians 6:10 (NCV)

3. Offer real affection.

*Love one another with brotherly affection as members of one family...*

Romans 12:10 (AMP)

4. Practice tangible appreciation.

*Brothers and sisters... appreciate those who work hard among you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NCV)

❖ By PRAYING for each other's GROWTH.

*Epaphras... always prays for you that you will grow to be spiritually mature.*

Colossians 4:12 (NCV)

1. Praying that we accept the fullness of God's love.

*I pray... that you will be able to feel and understand how long, wide, deep, and high Christ's love really is; <sup>19</sup>and to experience this love for yourselves...*

Ephesians 3:18-19 (LB)

2. Praying that we seek after and make wise decisions.

*I pray God... would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation...*

Ephesians 1:17 (GW)

3. Praying that we experience the peace and joy that only Christ can give.

*I pray God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him.*

Romans 15:13 (NCV)

4. Pray that we love others as Christ loves us.

*I pray the Lord will guide you to be as loving as God and as patient as Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (CEV)

❖ By ADMITTING our own MISTAKES.

*Tell each other the truth, because we all belong to each other.*

Ephesians 4:25 (NCV)

➤ Benefits of Being Honest With Each Other:

1. Honesty begins emotional healing.

*Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

James 5:16 (LB)

2. Honesty brings a fresh start.

*Anyone who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.*

Proverbs 28:13 (LB)

3. Honesty releases God's power to change.

*When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on Him, God will lift you up and give you honor.*

James 4:10 (NLT)

4. Honesty allows deeper fellowship.

*If we live in the light... then we have fellowship with one another.*

1 John 1:7 (TEV)

❖ By ENCOURAGING each other's COMMITMENTS.

*I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.*

Romans 1:12 (NCV)

➤ The Five Commitments of a Purpose-Driven Life:

*The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me...*

Psalms 138:8 (NIV)

1. Committed to loving God.
2. Committed to loving other believers.
3. Committed to growing in God's Word.
4. Committed to serving in ministry.
5. Committed to sharing the Good News.