

The Connected Life
Finding Real Community in a Digital World

Have you ever wondered if there were times you've missed the moments that matter the most?

Today we're going to talk about God honoring community.

“Do not (WARNING) conform to the pattern of this world, but (CHALLENGE) be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” **Romans 12:2.**

Sometimes in the things that we gain, we don't recognize what we're giving up.

But you were designed to become a person of love.

- Love is not formed in comfort.
- Love is formed in community.

That's why you need community.

We are going to look at three things about God honoring community.

- 1) You come just as you are.
- 2) No one stands alone.
- 3) Everything changes.

Have you ever been in a situation where you wondered, “I really belong here?”

Do I really belong here?

In Luke, chapter 19, we read about a man named Zacchaeus.

- 1) **In God honoring community, you come as you are.**

Out of all of the people that Jesus could have spent time and share a meal with Jesus, He chose Zacchaeus.

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:8-10

2) In God honoring community, no one stands alone.

What would change about your life if you truly believed that you didn't have to do it alone?

He created us for community.

We want everyone to experienced what God has intended for us:

- A genuine connection with other people.
- To carry one another's burdens.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." **Galatians 6:2**

He uses the Greek word "*Baros*" which means an "*unbearable weight that is too heavy for one person to carry.*"

There are things so heavy that we weren't supposed to carry them alone.

Could be God is calling you to step up and bring people into your environment, your home, to create a space for genuine connection?

3) In God honoring community, everything changes.

I believe that one day, one person and one moment with God can change everything.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone and the new is here." **2 Corinthians 5:17**

So where are you at today?

The same God that changed Paul's life is here for you today.

Commit to making attending church a priority.