

THE IMPORTANCE OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

October 13, 2019

I. INTRODUCTION

- *A Sunday drive slows you down enough to think about what drives you*

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 NIV - "Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless— a miserable business!

Proverbs 27:20 NIV - Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.

II. THREE TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU

1. *God did not create you to be alone.*

Genesis 2:18 NIV - The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

2. *God created you with a plan in mind.*

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

3. *God created you to thrive in community.*

1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV - Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

III. THREE OBSERVATIONS OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

1. *A healthy community is a support system.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV - Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

- *Attributes of a Healthy Support System*

- a. **Growth**

Hebrews 10:24 NIV - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds

b. Assistance

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

Acts 4:32-33 NIV - All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

c. Accountability

Proverbs 11:14 NIV - For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

2. A healthy community is comforting.

Ecclesiastes 4:11 NIV - Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

- *Qualities of a Comforting Community*

a. Encouraging

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

b. Unity

Psalms 133:1 NIV - "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"

Acts 2:44-46 NIV - "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,"

c. Love

Colossians 3:14 NIV - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

3. A healthy community is a source of strength.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 NIV - Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Isaiah 40:29 NIV - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

2 Corinthians 12:10 NIV - That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- *What is the condition of your community?*