

Connect

July 16, 2017

I. Introduction

A. The vision of Calvary Church is Life Change.

B. Life Change happens when we Connect, Grow and Serve together.

II. What Does It Mean To Connect?

Acts 2:46 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,

1. Followers Fellowship

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

A. Connection comes from Koinonia.

1. Koinonia is fellowship, the close association between persons, emphasizing what is common between them.
2. Revival without revolution is just hype.
3. Conversion without connection is just a fad.

Luke 8:11-15 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

B. The relational is spiritual.

1. Connection is at the core of who we are.
2. We must realize our need for connection when we lose it.

C. Connection breaks down our stereotypes.

1. Followers of Christ identify each other by who we are, not who we aren't.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

2. If your light is becoming darkness, that is not fellowship.
3. Food helps fellowship.

2. Names Are More Important Than Numbers

Acts 2:46 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,

- The first church calculated growth.

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- The first church celebrated growth.

Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

A. Big connection is important.

Psalms 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

1 Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- Find a place where you are needed.

B. Small connection is important.

Philemon 1:23-24 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

Find a place where you are known.

C. Connection is consistent.

1. Hit or miss fellowship ends up being mostly miss.

Hebrews 10:24-25 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.

2. You are responsible for your own connection.
3. You make possible another's connection.

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

3. *We Are Better Together*

A. Followers of Christ are together in faith.

Ephesians 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

B. Followers of Christ are together in challenges.

Colossians 4:11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

C. Followers of Christ are together in strength.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 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. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

- When the church is connected, it brings life to the world.