

# Keeping the Main Thing The Main Thing - Part 3

## Community or Disconnection?

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Part of Keeping the Main Thing The Main Thing

January 16, 2021

## Community or Disconnection?

January 17, 2021

Randy Hageman

**As we fail to come together, and instead become more disconnected, our spiritual lives \_\_\_\_.**

**Human beings were created for \_\_\_\_.**

*Then God said, 'Let **us** make human beings in **our** image, to be like **us**...' So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (**emphasis added**).*

—Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT)

**Two things are important to see in these verses:**

1. "Human beings" are created "in the \_\_\_\_ of God."
2. Because God is inherently communal through His *three* persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, "human beings" also possess an inherently \_\_\_\_ nature.

*Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.'*

—Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

*And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and*

*possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

—Acts 2:44-47 (NLT)

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

—Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

**God intends us to live our lives in community, especially with other disciples of Jesus Christ, because Christian community is one of the ways God grows us \_\_\_\_.**

**God designed biblical community to be a setting where we can be real and honest and accountable to others, though it takes \_\_\_\_ to get there.**

*We weren't created to be independent, autonomous, or self-sufficient. We were made to live in a humble, worshipful, and loving dependency upon God and in a loving and humble interdependency with others. Our lives were designed to be community projects. Yet, the foolishness of sin tells us that we have all that we need within ourselves. So we settle for relationships that never go beneath the casual. We defend ourselves when the people around us point out a weakness or a wrong. We hold our struggles within, not taking advantage of the resources God has given us.*

—Paul Tripp

**Community is also where we can learn about God's grace and have permission to try it out and even \_\_\_\_ it up sometimes.**

**The church isn't a \_\_\_\_ for saints but a \_\_\_\_ for sinners, and that means it's filled with imperfect people.**

**We need a place where we can be real and practice living as Jesus did, realizing that sometimes we'll do it \_\_\_\_.**

**Christian community is the \_\_\_\_ where we learn to rely on God's grace and experience the life-changing power of His Gospel and grace.**

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*

*—Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)*

### **59 One Another Scriptures**

**A big part of community and a part of growing ourselves spiritually is the opportunity to love and \_\_\_\_ these “one anothers” to each other and to others.**

*Jesus: 'For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.'*

*—Mark 10:45 (NLT)*

**When small groups in community find ways to intentionally unleash God's love into our communities, they are serving as \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ for the cause of Christ, pointing people to the one who makes all this possible.**

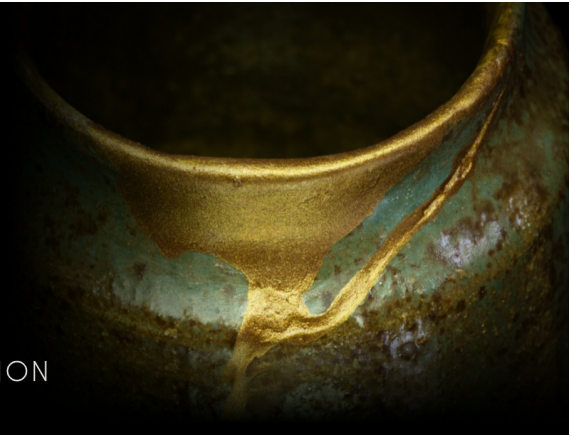
*We sometimes treat community like the safety net under a tightrope walker: it's a good thing to have in case something bad happens. But the Bible talks about community as if it's the tightrope itself: you can't move forward without it. We are created for community. We are redeemed for community. And we are transformed in community.*

*—Bob Thune & Will Walker*

**There are real and practical outcomes for individuals who take \_\_\_\_ emphasis on community seriously.**

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