

TOGETHER

A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Nobody is Alone

September 29, 2024

Why Together?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12—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. ...Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

2 Timothy 2:2—And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Community is God's Idea!

John 17:21—That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...

WHY GROUPS?

- > Centered in the person of God and the Trinity.

Genesis 1:26—Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."

Deuteronomy 6:4—Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

- > Seen in the life of Jesus and His disciples.

Mark 3:14—...that they might be with him...

- > Focus of Jesus' prayers.

John 17:21-23—That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- > Evidenced in the Early Church.

PATTERN: Acts 2:42-47—They devoted themselves...

PROCESS: Acts 5:42—...the temple courts and from house to house...

Acts 20:20—...publicly and from house to house.

PRODUCT: Throughout Scripture—...one another...

> Found throughout Scripture.

Old Testament: *Families and tribes, Moses. (see Exodus 18)*

New Testament: *Paul and Peter use the metaphor of family when describing the church. (See Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 3:15; Hebrews 2:11; 1 Peter 4:17)*

BUILDING COMMUNITY OFFERS 4 BIG BLESSINGS

1. Strength when times get hard.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10—*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..*

John 16:33—*...In this world you will have trouble...*

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

See also **Leviticus 19:18; James 2:8**

2. Wisdom and sound advice.

Proverbs 15:22—*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

Proverbs 12:15—*The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*

Proverbs 27:6—*Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

3. Accountability and truth-telling.

Proverbs 17:17—*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

Proverbs 27:17—*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

1 John 1:7—*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

See also **James 1:23-25**

4. Love and acceptance.

Proverbs 18:24—*One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

John 13:34-35—*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another...*

All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Rewatch today's message online at bcachurch.com/messages.

STUDY GUIDE: 9/29/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why are we better together? How have fellow Christians helped you in your life? How do you want to help others going forward?
2. Look at the life of the Early Church in Acts 2:42-47. What inspires you about how they supported and encouraged each other?
3. Rob talked about the over 50 “One Another” statements in the New Testament. What do these mean to you and what do they say about how we are to do life together? (Read Romans 12:10, 12:16, 15:14; Galatians 5:13, 6:2; I Thessalonians 5:11, 5:13, 5:15)
4. In what ways do we need each other? Dig into this a bit. Read and discuss Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12.
5. Read Proverbs 15:22; 17:17; 27:17. What are the implications of these verses? Be specific.