

## **“When Community isn’t working!”**

**Three Of Our Father’s Desires... *That we would get Jesus into our skin!*** “The predetermined destination for believers is transformation into the image of His dear Son!” ***That what has been on the outside will get in and flow from the inside!*** “greater works than these will you do...” ***To invade and inhabit our natural lives!*** “We are the temple of the Holy Spirit where God and Son come and meet with us!”

**Three Ways To Maintain Intimacy! *A voracious hunger for the Word of God!*** Where we first “see” Him/portfolio! ***The fullest engagement of the Holy Spirit we can muster!*** Tells us all we need to know about Him! ***Help from our Christian friends!***

**We need a community of people who understand our “commitment, values and goals” and will do everything possible to help us keep them!**

**Three Basics Of Healthy Community! *Christ-based community!*** Whatever He would do with His friends is what we do with ours! ***Love-motivated connections!*** With our hearts engaged with one another we give more than we receive! ***Fearless intersection!*** We’re going to care more about how God views us than how people do!

**There are obvious benefits to healthy Community! The Benefits...**

- We get to see different aspects of Christ in our uniqueness!
- There is fulfillment found in anything God designs!
- It brings clarity as we share our hearts, thoughts, concepts!
- It brings health to self-esteem as we participate!
- It brings completeness as others participate in our lives!!
- It keeps us from being undercover Christians!
- It’s easier to defeat temptations in community! (as long as it’s not in community that they come!)
- It’s harder to be distracted/isolated/ taken captive when you have community radar!
- It keeps us real as we share and find out others feel the same way!
- It keeps our compassion alive as we pray for one another!
- It keeps us sharp and effective in our quest for Christ-likeness!
- Everyone of us brings a different part of the body together so that the Head of the Body is not connected to a quadriplegic!

**But what about when we want to be in community but we can’t? What do we do when we have tried to be “connected” but someone doesn’t want to be?** “Try, try and try again,” obviously... But if we have come up against a will, instead of an excuse/a pain/a fear, etc.... Then we commend them to God – for healing – for restoration – as we move forward!

**If our enemy can get us to fixate on someone God cannot move... he has won!**

**When we can’t be community...**

“Walked away grieved because he was very rich...” (Jesus v. will) **Mk10.22** “Forsaken us, having loved the world!” ( Paul v. desire) **2Tim 4.10, 2Pet 2.15** “Went out from us proving they were not of us!” (misplaced) **1Jo 2.19** “I have written to you not to keep company with one who calls himself a brother who is purposefully walking in sin!” (hardness of heart – ignorance of Word) **1Cor5.11** “Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of their flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord” (willfully non-responsive believer) **1Cor5.5** “Some having put away their good conscience of faith have made themselves shipwrecks, like Hymenaeus and Alexander whom I have delivered to Satan to learn not to blaspheme!” (subverters) **1Tim1.19,20**

**The break in community is not “we never want to see you again...” The break is so that we can seem them whole again! The break in community is not “now take that...” it’s “now, let go of that!”** (And 2Cor 2 shows how well God’s way works... and how it kept Satan from getting an advantage over us!)

**Asides...** “Lest Satan (the accuser) should get an advantage (make a gain) over us...” The case: adultery with father’s wife... “deliver such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that his soul might be saved...” **1Cor5.1-13** Too lax: immorality attributed to grace! Too severe: lose a brother! Snares set on either side!

**What is the gain he gets when the body doesn’t... *Police itself?* Open door of opportunity! *Forgive?* The advantage of accusing us of hypocrisy! “We who have been...” *Restore?* The gain of being able to condemn the church in her primary work! “We are sent to deliver...”**

**The goal in the break in community is always restoration... only Jesus has the right for final judgment!**

**So what do we do... *If we can’t have community!* “We meekly instruct those who oppose themselves hoping that God will make the truth-breakthru for their awakening from the snare of the devil!” **2Tim2.25,26** While off the list as community on the list as ministry! **1Cor5.11, Gal6.1** Love the same/change the approach! We wait with longsuffering hope! **2P3.9****

***If we have no community!* Show ourselves to be friendly... **Pr18.24** Become aware of your own persona! Show ourselves to be helpful... **Eph 4.2, 1Pet4.8,11** In love *build up, heal, encourage, strengthen, listen to* one another! Show yourself a pattern of good works! **Titus 2.7 (No stumbling blocks Rom13.14)****

***If evil friends corrupt good morals, then good friends interrupt evil morals!* 1Co15.33**

***If there is no community!* Do the work of an evangelist... **2T4.3** Best way to establish community is to help grow one!**

Serve the saved... **Mk10.45 Acts 6.5-7** Never lack for community/love/honor if you are a source! Get saved... and get started! **Rom 8.29** Jesus is the doorway into community!