

“The Practice of Community!”

Take a look at the picture one last time! (Michelangelo’s Creation of Adam) From Adam til now... God has been reaching out to us to fill us with His life and love! And God is wanting to touch us and us to touch others... because love reaches!

To this point... We have talked about Christ-based Community! Defining it as “What He would do with my friends is what I will do with them!” CBC must be love-motivated... And it must be fearless! **We’ve seen the benefits of CBC!** The greatest, fulfilling God’s design for us as the functioning Body of Christ! **And talked about some of the hardships of CBC...** What we do with believers who don’t want community... *Minister/longs’ffrg!* What we do when we have no community... *Show ourselves friendly!* What we do when none exists! *Evangelize/serve!*

There is nothing more beautiful in the whole world than the Body of Christ reaching out in all its fullness!

God’s love reaches... To fill us full, to fulfill us... *Not for primping in a mirror to admire our likeness to Him...* But to act like Him/be like Him! **E5.1,2** *Not for praising and worshipping Him...* He can make worshipper’s of stones if necessary... **Lk 19.40** *He fills us with His Word and Spirit and Love so that we have a reach to others!* **2Tim 3.17**

Our reach... Proves that we are the children of our Father! And we cannot do His commandments without reaching out to others with genuine help... **1John 4.7 – 5.3** That help isn’t always obvious at first... Sometimes our emotions have to be moved aside... But God is always right on target! We must train ourselves to listen!

And we are not keeping His word if we omit the weightier issues of compassion, love, justice and faith!
Mt 23.23 Keeping the rules is not the same thing as listening to the Head!

Reaching to neighbor’s and enemies alike! **Mt 5.43-48** And because we can... we can’t grow weary in well doing! **G6.9** And we can’t say, “go in peace, be warmed and filled” and yet give them nothing to meet the need... **Jam2.16**

So, we reach... Up to God... For definition, resonance and resource! **Up to mentors and coaches...** For input, development and honing! **Side to side to peers/co-laborers...** For conversation, aid and partnership! **And out and all around to where there are needs!** For fulfillment of purpose/design!

So, here’s the end... You look around... Any hurting, searching, lonely, hopeless people in your circle of life? How about people reaching for forgiveness? (Shouldn’t have to reach!) Any wanting another chance, answers, faith, meaning, reconciliation... a bottle? People looking for love, acceptance, a friend, a fresh start, HOPE?

WILL YOU BE THERE FOR THEM?

What do you need? Bibles to give away in your neighborhood? “In His Steps” books to start a reading/coffee club? Marriage Seminar video’s to host your family friends who are struggling? Alpha Course for home use? The Truth Project? The Building Blocks and Light in Darkness Series for home study? How about a teacher to come over and help you? More training/scholarship to do a bible study? Information/input on how to use an idea/start a group meeting? Announcements for a Bible Study at your house? “Answer” resource for help! Connections with people of like interests to help you get started! Or...

WE WILL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

The time has come to no longer be children tossed around and carried away by deceitful doctrines... But speaking The Truth in love we grow up into Him in all things who is the Head of the Church... From whom the whole Body comes together energized, growing and building itself up in love as each part does its work... **Eph 4.13-16**

Take a look at the picture one last time! See the gap between the fingers? What does it require to close the gap? One small step of faith to engage your ministry!