

REAL COMMUNITY TRANSFORMS

Genesis 2:18; Romans 12:4-5

Genesis 2:18, Then the LORD God said, “It is **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

The Benefits of True Community

* 1. True community pleases God’s heart.

John 13:34-35, 34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Psalm 133:1 (ESV), Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

* 1. True community helps us grow.

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

* Godly community brings **exposure** and **encouragement**.

Romans 12:9-10, 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

* 1. True community keeps us safe.

Proverbs 18:1-2 (ESV), 1 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. 2A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 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.

* 1. True community gives us purpose.

Romans 12:4-5, 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Three Hindrances to True Community

* 1. Offense

Proverbs 19:11 (ESV), Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 18:19 (ESV), A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.

Leviticus 19:18,Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

* 1. Pride

Romans 12:16, Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:16 (NLT), Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!

* 1. Insecurity

John 3:16, For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Questions:

1. What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
2. What will you do because of it?
3. How can we pray for you?

