

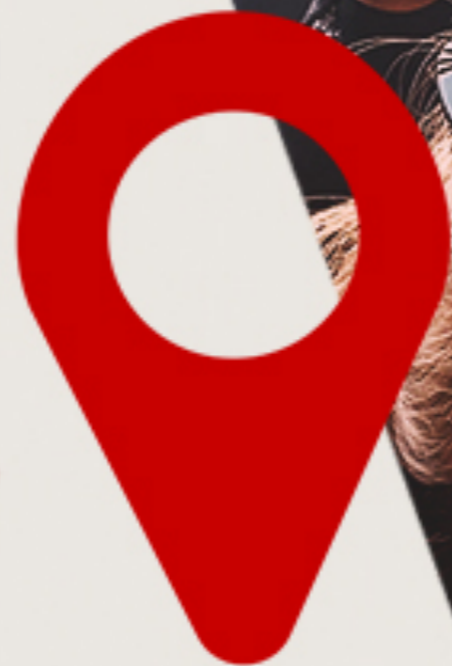
Community is much more
than belonging to something;
it's about doing
something together that
makes belonging matter.

—Brian Sato



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JESUS RELATES

John 1:38-39

“Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” ... “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day...”



Genesis 2:18

*“And the Lord God said, ‘It is **not good** that man should be **alone**; I will make him a **helper comparable** to him.’”*

helper:— (*ezer*) strong help

comparable:— (*kenegdo*) as in front of him; perfect match, same nature.



“Tribalism is crushing the fabric of our world.”

Pastor Karl Thomas

“True Community Cultivates a Kingdom Culture” PBS

Acts 2:47

“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”



John 17:23 “I in them, and you in me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent me, and have loved them as You have loved me.”

Ephesians 4:16 NLT

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”



Ephesians 3:9-10

“God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, . . .”



For over 75 years, Harvard's **Grant and Glueck Study** had tracked the physical and emotional well-being of two populations: 456 poor men growing up in Boston from 1939 to 2014, and 268 male graduates from Harvard's classes of 1939-1944.



The conclusion? Robert Waldinger, director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development:
“The clearest message that we get from this 75-year study is this: Good relationships keep us happier and healthier. Period.”



Many people think that Christianity is a belief system, but it's really a **belong** system.

John 13:35

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”



59 One Another Commands In New Testament.

21 Involve “Love.”

John 13:34

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”



1 Peter 3:8

“Love one another deeply, from the heart.”

1 Corinthians 13:2

“...if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.”



1 Corinthians 13:2 “..if I had such
faith that I could move mountains but
didn't love others, I would be
nothing.”

African Proverb:

“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go with
others.”



Dr Dean Ornish

Ornish Lifestyle Medicine

“Love and intimacy — our ability to connect with ourselves and others, is at the root of what makes us sick and what makes us well, ... People who feel lonely and isolated have a 300-500 percent greater risk of premature death due to physical illness.”



Impact people are committed to living in authentic community.

You cannot fulfill the purpose for God outside of community.

You can know God without community and get to heaven without community, but you can't manifest God's fullness.



Hebrews 10:21-25 NLT

*“...And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, **let us** go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water...”*

*“**Let us** hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. **Let us** think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 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.”*

Connecting Is Mandatory!

1. Together We Approach

“...let us go right in to the presence of God...” vs.22

Revelation 5:9

“...your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Acts 20:20

“...how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,”



2. Together We Stand

vs. 23 “Let us hold tightly
without wavering to the hope we
affirm,”

Holding on is a group activity!!!

Hold on to each other as we hold
on to the promises.

He is FAITHFUL!!!



3. Together We Act

vs 24 *“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”*

Join me in...

Help me with...

This has worked for me...



Real relationships are good and messy.

Proverbs 27:6

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”



Proverbs 27:17 *“As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”*

Countenance (paw-neem') :—

face, before and behind, toward,
in front of, forward

a. How You Look

b. How You Look At Things

c. How You Look At Things Ahead

4. Together We Remain

vs.25 *“...let us not neglect our meeting together...”*

Social media is **NOT** real human interaction. It's edited!!!

How many of you have secretly unfollowed me?



Ephesians 1:23 “The Church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

BECAUSE WE ARE COMMITTED TO AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY:

1. **Everyone is welcome.**

Your background doesn't matter.

2. **Nobody is perfect.**

Bring a Bible and your problems.

3. **Anything is possible.**

Simon can become
Peter.



4.) You can worship freely

- no one is judging

5.) Questions are permissible-

Answers should be biblical

Connection and Communication is the Key to Community with the Creator.

Matthew 21:12-13 ¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’^[a] but you are making it ‘a den of robbers

“Distraction Destroys the
Desire of the Divine”
PBS.

Romans 8:1 “There is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ.”

5.) Together We Uplift:

Ephesians 4:29, NIV: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

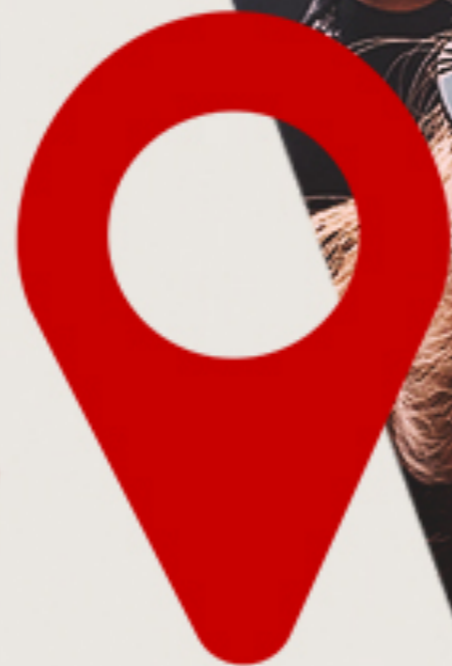
Deuteronomy 31:8 It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

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