



Community of Caring

Greater than the sum of the Parts

Family (n) – persons of common ancestry [Christ], united by certain convictions [faith], forming an ordered whole [service]

Disintegration of the Family...

PERFECTION: *I don't like...*

Connection vs Individualism

PRIORITY: *I need some "me" time.*

Compass vs Clock

PRIDE: *Who do you answer to?*

Control vs Submission

➤ The Church is a _____ for change

The source of HOPE, GRACE, FORGIVENESS, and LOVE

Shared wisdom = Suffering avoided

➤ The Church is a haven in a _____ world

Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. 1 Peter 5:8

- **Protect the unity of the church.**
- **Defend the hearts of those who love and serve you.**
- **Welcome each person from the storms of life.**

➤ The Church reveals _____

You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Cor 12:27

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your salvation is bound up with mine, then let us work together, side by side.

True worship affects everything in life.

Foundations: The Church

Fresh Start

This is God's Word for my life in this place and at this time. Today, I am a new creation in Christ, I am God's very own, and I believe He has a purpose for my life.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

Ecl 4:9

"Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. [10] If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. [11] And on a cold night, two under the same blanket can gain warmth from each other. But how can one be warm alone? [12] A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." NLT

The most selfish act of a Christ-follower is skipping out on church! God saved us to be an active member of His body, the church.

True worship affects everything in life.

First United Methodist Church



D I S C I P L E S H I P

The Fellowship of Believers [Acts 2:42-47 5]

Why did Christians get together? Is this why we get together?

- They loved to eat
- They were excited about their new life & wanted to share it with others.
- They had a lot of needs
- They had a lot to learn
- They were looking for Christ in every event in life

What made the early church so appealing to others?

- Their spiritual vitality and focus
- their love for each other
- their openness to others
- Miracles Great preaching community life

What is the closest thing you have experienced similar to this passage?

- a sports team
- in the military
- in a support group
- friends in high school
- I've never had this kind of experience
- in my family
- in a sorority or fraternity
- at a job where I worked
- church-related group

What keeps the church from living this kind of fellowship now?

- We don't have time
- We don't know each other
- We don't know each other's needs
- Pride
- Too many differences
- Power and Control