

(Y)OUR CHURCH
MVC—A Place To Connect

Pastor Bill Bowers
February 12, 2017

Hebrews 10:19-25

Ecclesia = "the called-out ones"

Jesus' plan to change the world was through \_\_\_\_\_.

BOTTOM LINE: You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus without being
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE CONNECTED IN COMMUNITY?

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ in His Community.

Wherever two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst. Matthew 18:20

"Personalities united can contain more of God and sustain the force of His presence much better than scattered individuals." Dallas Willard

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:24-25

2. Community also prevents \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

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

3. Community is a place where it is fully safe for us to take off

\_\_\_\_\_ and to know the healing power of being
\_\_\_\_\_.

Adam says to God, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid so I hid." Genesis 3:10

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16

You can only be loved to the extent that you \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Community is the place where we have an opportunity

\_\_\_\_\_.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

This is My command: Love each other. John 15:17

By this, everyone will know that you are My disciples. John 13:35

"Community is the place where the person I least want to be there is always there." Henri Nouwen

"What made Jesus' Community explode was this undaunted, Spirit-empowered determination of those within the Community to lavish love on anybody who could possibly stand it!" John Ortberg

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**LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions**

- In our teaching this week, we learned that *ecclesia* (the word used for church), means “the called-out ones.” What do you think this means? What is the church called-out for and do you think this means everything about our faith is community connected? Why or why not?
- Pastor Bill made a bold statement; “You cannot abide in Jesus without being connected in community.” Do you think this is true or untrue? Explain your response.
- Consider the course of your own spiritual journey, reflecting on the ebbs and flows, and the highs and lows. During times that were most difficult and challenging, were you in deep and healthy relationships or not? During times of great renewal and “closeness” with God, how were your relationships in spiritual community? Can you give testimony to these comparisons?
- The proverb “as iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another” was quoted in our teaching. What do you think this means? How many ways might you see application of this proverb in your life? Is it a good thing or a bad thing, or both?
- The greatest gift of community is the gift of being known and knowing others. Is there a place that you feel so “known” that you are completely free to share your most vulnerable self? If that place of community exists for you, where and with whom is it? Be specific.
- How do you feel about confessing your sins with one another (James 5:16)? Is there a place where you practice this discipline? If yes, how has it impacted your walk with Jesus?
- Who do you think Jesus meant for us to love when He instructed His followers; “Love each other as I have loved you” and “by this, everyone will know you are My disciples.” Are there Christians that you know that you do not love? Are there Christians that you know that you do not like? If yes, what do you think God is prompting you to do about it?

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