

**Intentional Community** is designed for various reasons that bring numerous benefits. One design of **IC** is to display God's glory to a fallen and broken world and to show what true love really looks like.

### Threefold Theme of 1 John

1. Connect to Community - Through commitment
2. Build Community - Through acts of love
3. Protect Community - Knowing how to identify and reject false teaching

➤ We connect to community through commitment.

***1 John 1:3-4** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*

Each individual that God saves has his or her uniqueness; there is no mass production. In recruiting workers the church doesn't offer monetary incentives. The best promise is work without pay, time away from other duties, and if things go according to Scripture - being misunderstood, underappreciated, and suffering as a part of the reward. It makes sense why the Bible calls followers of Christ "servants" and why the Grace family needs to grasp an understanding of **Intentional Community**.

**There is something to be experienced in God's house** that is unique and special, or why have corporate worship at all? If it is only teaching we need, we can get that from books or tapes. If it is only fellowship with other people we need we can get that at a home gathering. There is something to be said about the dynamics of corporate singing, sitting and listening to a sermon, and hearing the Bible expounded. The very atmosphere of a time and place set aside just for the worship of God is so very beneficial for the believer. We often lose the importance and value of corporate worship and corporate Bible Study. Adapted - James Boice

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**1 John 2:3** - We show our love by keeping God's commandments.

**1 John 2:10** - He who loves his brothers and sisters walks in the light.

**1 John 2:15** - Don't love the world.

**1 John 3:18** - We desire to live a godly life.

**1 John 4:1** - We don't accept everything on face value, and we test what we hear within the context of religion.

**1 John 4:7, 11** - We love one another because of who God is.

**1 John 5:3** - Our love for God means that we see his commandments as a gift and not a burden.

The false teaching John wrote about...

1. Compromised the person and work of Jesus Christ
2. Minimized the seriousness of sin and personal holiness
3. Placed the individual rights over community

We protect community by knowing how to identify and reject false teaching.

**1 John 1:6, 3:10** - It is a lie to believe we can live in sin and still honor God.

**1 John 1:8** - It is a lie to deny our sin and claim to be sinless.

**1 John 2:4** - It's a lie to say we love God and reject his commandments.

**1 John 2:9, 4:8, 4:20** - It is a lie to say we have fellowship with God but hate our brother.

**1 John 3:17** - It's a lie to say we love God but won't be generous to those in need.

**1 John 5:10** - It's a lie to say we believe in God but deny Jesus as the Son of God.

When the great accuser takes our sins before God to see us condemned – Jesus holds up his nail scarred hand to silence the devil.

*2:1-2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

*2:3-6 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

*2:7-11 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. <sup>8</sup> Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup> He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. <sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

*2:12-14 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup> I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

*2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

Being doers of the Word assignment...

> **Read 1 John this week and make note of how often John uses the word "love."**