

1. Connect to Community
2. Build Community
3. Protect Community

Community (Fellowship) is the setting aside of personal interest and desires and the joining with one another for the common purpose of honoring Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

To confess Christ is much more than mental consent, for even the demons believe in God. To confess Christ is to submit to Him as personal Lord and Savior. To confess Christ is to embrace all that He is.

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 (What about when false teachers get the information correct?)

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Acts 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Gnosticism was perhaps the most dangerous heresy that threatened the early church. Gnostics assert that the body is inherently evil and spirit is good. Therefore anything done in the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning or effect because real life exists in the spirit realm only.

1 John 4:4-6 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

God did *not* just say he loved us. **He manifested His love in Jesus Christ** that we might have life. To have life means to receive the salvation that gives us purpose and meaning!

It matters to God what we think about and how we treat others.

1 John 4:12- 16 *No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. (re: **Romans 5:5**)*

- The love of God matures us to love others. **4:17**
- The love of God prepares us for the judgment seat of Christ. **4:17**
- The love of God builds hope within us by removing fear. **4:18**
- The love of God deepens our love for God. **4:19**

1 John 4:17-19 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.*

John gives a serious warning to those who hate others within the faith community.

1 John 5:20-21 *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

(GBC Covenant of Membership) Recognizing my inability in my own strength to keep this covenant, yet believing that God will enable me to fulfill its terms; I hereby attach my signature below, implying the ready assent of my heart to each of the terms of this covenant.

It is *not* our love that empowers us to desire and obey God's will; it is **God's love in us** and through us. As the **Love of God** fills our heart, we return that love in worship and obedience.

ABE's | Adult Bible Electives: 9:30am (Sept.-Dec.)

A103 | Calm My Anxious Heart | Gail Linville

A104 | Basics for Believers | Kyle Linville

A105| Genesis 1-11 | Jeff Heslop

A215 | Romans, Pt. 1 | Wally Stacy

Chapel | Doing Life On This Side of Heaven | Jerry Pelfrey



ADULT BIBLE ELECTIVES

SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM

Life Groups meet throughout the week on various evenings. Contact Pastor Kyle for details.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study: Saturday; November 4th 8:30-Noon

- Theme: Spiritual Warfare Revisited! Three sessions by Pastor Jerry
- Study Booklet made available and time for Q and A.
- \$5 each (teens and guests no charge) RSVP at the sign-up table.
- Pray. Invite. Attend.

Read and study **1 John 5** for 10.22.17.