

A Fresh Start with God ~ *beginning again, moving forward*
Week 6 – Why do I feel all alone? ~ November 12, 2006

The church is supposed to be community

- **Jesus said, “Where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”**
Matthew chapter 18 verse 20 (749)
- **They worshiped together...met in homes...and shared their meals....** *Acts chapter 2 verse 46 (832)*

How do I experience community?

People in community know they need God & others

- **When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden.** *Genesis chapter 3 verse 8 (4)*

People in community live out their new identity in Christ

- **God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.** *Ephesians chapter 1 verse 5 (895)*
- **There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.** *Galatians chapter 3 verse 28 (892)*
- God has called us to be one with him & one with each other. I cannot be one with God if I reject those that God accepts
- In Christ, all things that would normally separate us are wiped away, because nothing is as important as the common bond we have in Christ
- We don't have to look alike or act alike to be in the same family. We can be brothers & sisters without being twins!

People in community live to honor God

- **Our purpose is to please God, not people.** *1 Thessalonians chapter 2 verse 4 (905)*

People in community are friends first

- **A friend is always loyal....** *Proverbs chapter 17 verse 17 (493)*
- **As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.** *Proverbs chapter 27 verse 17 (501)*

People in community are encouragers

- **So encourage each other and build each other up....** *1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 11 (907)*

People in community strive to live authentic lives

- **You will always harvest what you plant.** *Galatians chapter 6 verse 7 (894)*
- **Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.** *Galatians chapter 6 verse 2 (894)*

People in community understand God's plan for life

- **All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship....**
Acts chapter 2 verse 42 (832)
- “Fellowship” means that masks come off, conversations get deep, hearts get vulnerable, lives are shared, accountability is built and tenderness flows

Next week: Preparing for Thanksgiving...Being thankful when life is hard.

*This study is based on the “Fresh Start” curriculum from Saddleback Church in California where Rick Warren is the lead pastor. Rick is the best-selling author of The Purpose Driven Life & Saddleback is a dynamic church that God is working thru to change tens of thousands of lives around the world.
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