

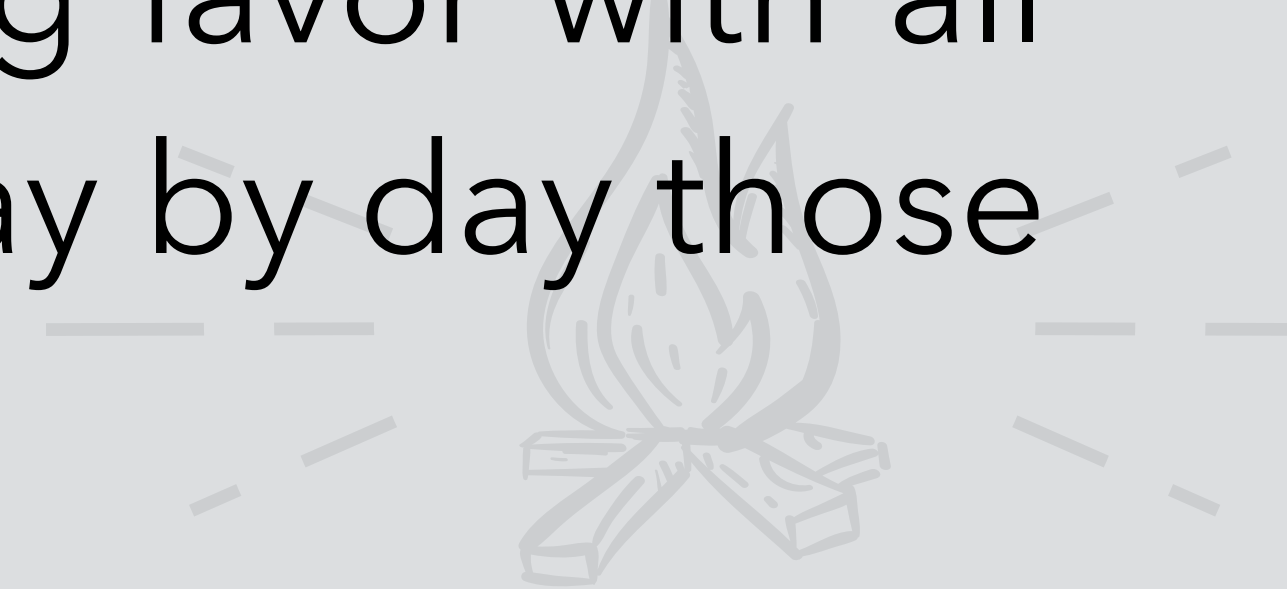
Gospel Communities



Healthy Church

ACTS 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



Genesis 2:18a

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;



In American prisons, which are extraordinarily violent places, the most vicious form of punishment is simply to lock a person in an empty room for years with absolutely nothing to do. This emptying of any possibility of communication or meaning is the real essence of what violence really is or does.

—

**David Graeber,
The Utopia of Rules**



Community and relationship **are necessary** for
human flourishing.



Solitary confinement is terrible. That is terrible. You're in a grave. You can't do anything... You're in a grave and you're trying to live. That's how to best describe it: **trying to live in a grave.** You're trying to live 'cause you're not dead yet, but nobody hears you when you call out, 'Hey, I'm alive!'"

—

Excerpt from an interview in Megan Sweeney's,
The Story Within Us



Prolonged isolation (emotional, relational, spiritual) causes one to feel like they are trying to
'live inside a grave.'



PARISH MODEL GATHERING BREAKDOWN

I. ALL PARISH GATHERINGS

- COLLECTION OF ALL JCT LOCAL CHURCHES

II. LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

- WEEKLY MEETINGS OF EACH PARISH LOCALLY

III. GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- HOME BASED SMALLER GATHERINGS WHICH LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE COMMUNITY



SOCIAL SIMILARITIES (MILITARY)

I. REGIMENT

1000 - 3000

II. COMPANY

80 - 250

III. SQUADRON

8 -12



SOCIAL SIMILARITIES (MUSIC)

I. ORCHESTRA

100 -200

II. SECTION

15-30

III. ROW

10-15



DIVERSITY INCREASES OPPORTUNITY



DIVERSITY INCREASES OPPORTUNITY

TO LEARN & TO GROW

-

TO UNDERSTAND OTHERS

-

TO UNDERSTAND NEW PERSPECTIVES

-

TO SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING OUTSIDE OF YOUR PURVIEW

-

TO SERVE NEEDS THAT WE OTHERWISE WOULD NOT KNOW ABOUT



Our cultures' issue comes **not from rejection** of community **but from co-opting** of community.



Turning what should be an **others focussed** community of service into a community for the **benefit of ones own self.**



The bright day of Christian community dawns
wherever the early morning mists of dreamy
visions are lifting.

—

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Gospel Communities provide space for **real** and
honest relational connection.



Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together,** as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another,** and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



Genesis 2:18a

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;



In Genesis we are confronted right away with
two basic human conditions:
Loneliness & Fallenness



If people are really both **ALONE** and **FALLEN**
which one of those things *can you and I* do
most about?"

-

David Ferguson



One of the **worst things** humans can legally do to each other is **take away access to others.**



Could it then be true that one of the **best things**
we can do is to **be there for each other?**



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Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together,** as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another,** and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



Gospel centered community provides space for healthy relationship leading to the flourishing of individuals and therefore the church as a whole.



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