

DOING CHURCH TOGETHER—GOD’S WAY

Select Passages • September 23, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

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rethink
CHURCH
God’s perspective

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT) ⁹Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹¹Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? ¹²A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Ephesians 2:11-18 (NLT) ¹¹Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹²In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For Christ himself has brought peace to us. **He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.** ¹⁵He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. **He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.** ¹⁶Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) ²⁴Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NLT) ¹Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. ²Share each

Four Biblical Principles:

- 1) God created us with a need for _____ with others.
✓ See Genesis 2 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
As followers of Christ, we need each other.
- 2) Within the Body of Christ (Church), Jesus wants us to unite around our _____ and not focus on what makes us different.
✓ See Ephesians 2:11-18
- 3) The Bible provides an overview of specific ways we should _____ within the Church.
 1. We should make it a priority to meet with other followers of Christ. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 2. We should encourage one another. (Hebrews 10:25, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 3. We should help motivate one another do to good works and acts of love. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 4. We should help others get on track if they are caught up in sin. (Galatians 6:1)
 5. We should listen to and help carry one another’s burdens. (Galatians 6:2)
 6. We should confess our sins to one another. (James 5:16)



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other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

James 5:16 (NLT) ¹⁶Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

1 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT) ⁸Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it.

1 John 3:17 (NLT) ¹⁷If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT) ³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Ephesians 4:13-16 (NLT) ¹³This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT) ⁴²All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

7. We should pray for one another. (James 5:16)
8. We should sympathize with one another and be quick to forgive those who have wronged us. (1 Peter 3:8-9 and Ephesians 4:32)
9. We should serve one another using the SHAPE God has given us. (1 Peter 4:10)
10. We should help each other through hard financial times. (Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-37, and 1 John 3:17)
11. We should love one another. (1 John 3:11, John 13:34-35, and 1 Peter 3:8)
12. We should care about others and not just focus on what is happening in our own lives. (Philippians 2:3-4)

4) We need to look for ways to _____ with other followers of Christ and we need to do our part in developing relationships with others.

✓ See Acts 2:42-47

Our strategy is summarized in the following four words...

Gather. Connect. Grow. Serve.

Here is the bottom line:

- We need one another to fully live out the Christian life.
- We need to take the first step toward developing relationships in the Church by attending and participating in connecting events and groups.

How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

Believe that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

Acknowledge your sins and ask God to forgive you.

Submit yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

Express your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

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