

Community: Sharing a Common Life in Christ



The Body of Christ, the church, is meant to work together to accomplish the purposes of God. Likewise, the family and specifically, the marriage relationship, is a microcosm of this function - in fact, marriage and family came before the church and is supposed to reflect the very nature of God - community - *working together in unity and singleness of purpose*. Yet, so often we see division and diversity of purpose in marriage, family, and the church.

The problem is that many people have bought into the cultural ideal that the individual comes first. 'It is all about me; make me happy or I am moving on' - to another relationship, church, or community. God's plan is for oneness in marriage; unity without separation. His plan is that the Body of Christ would work together for His glory, not work as individuals for our own glory.

Friends, we have got to stop thinking as individuals, as lone islands in the sea of humanity. We were created for a purpose; God's purpose of being light to a dark world; of being a testimony to His love and goodness. We are that light and testimony when we live in community - living in unity, harmony, and working together. We must reject the ideals of the culture and embrace God's view of marriage and the church; giving up our rights to do whatever we please, living in community and sharing our lives with the person we committed our life to.

Community plays a vital role in our marriage providing support and helping us to grow in our walk with Christ and in our marriage relationship. Living in community means that we will connect with a local church body and get involved - to be a functioning part of the church. No church is perfect and there are no perfect leaders, but as we extend the grace that God has extended to us, we can find our place in the church. Consider joining or even beginning a couple's group where you can connect with other couples and grow in your marriage.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Learn more about beginning a couple's group at www.fortifiedmarriages.com/find-out-more

Articles to check out:

Your Marriage Needs Community by Greg Smalley - focusonthefamily.com

5 Reasons Why all Couples Need Community by Scott Kendersha - startmarriageright.com

Community: God's Design For Growth by Howard Macy - bible.org