



Restoring Community

Genesis 1-3; Ephesians 2:14-15; John 17:20-21; Acts 2:42-47

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One of the biggest critiques of modern suburbia is the problem of suburban isolationism. We are weak relationally.

Brief History of the Decline of Community

Notes:

“Radical Individualism”

Modern Conveniences

Neighborhood Structure

Architecture (Porches to Patios)

“Cocooning”

Commuting

Longer Work Hours

Mobility

Social Media

Kid-Centric Homes

Community of geography has been replaced with community of affinity. Community is not where I live as much as it is what I choose.

Despite suburban tendencies toward isolationism, people still desire community.

The Trinity is the theological term used to define God as one Being who is expressed in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The doctrine of the Trinity means that God is community. He is a relational being.

Genesis 1:26-27, “26 Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...’ 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (NIV)

Part of being created in the image of God means that we are relational beings. We were created for community.

Spiritual Practice: Significant Relationships: I prioritize and invest in God-honoring relationships.

There is a God-given rhythm of life that balances independence and intimacy.

Genesis 3:7-10, “7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ 10 He answered, ‘I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.’” (NIV)

Sin has divided us. Community has been lost.

But community can be restored because of the work of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-15, “14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.” (NIV)

John 17:20-21, “20 My prayer is...for those who will believe in me... 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (NIV)

Acts 2:42-47, “42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (NIV)

The biblical word for community is koinonia – “sharing something in common; shared life; communion; participation, contribution.”

Am I devoted to others like this?

What will I do to create community in my life?

Ideas:

Life Group

Love Your Neighbor (Names)

Get Outside

Be Attentive

Hospitality

Borrow Things

Block Parties

Community Groups

Invitations

Engage the Community with Family

Parish Mindset

Stay Put