

## WE WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER

### The Tension

- 1) **Community** – We expect connection like we expect food, water and sleep.  
**Problems:**
  - ✓ **Socialization** is not synonymous with community.
  - ✓ **Speaking** isn't synonymous with connecting.
- 2) **Vulnerability** – We are hardwired to reject it.

### Case Study On Isolation

- 1) David – Isolation breeds **sin**
- 2) Elijah – Isolation breeds **self-obsession**
- 3) Jonah – Isolation **prevents** God's will from being done
- 4) Jesus – Isolation invites **Satan**

### Life Group Cons

- Starting can be **awkward**.
- **Vulnerability** can be **uncomfortable**.
- Your time is **precious**.

### Life Group Pros

- We **obey God** as we engage in community.
- Refining always happens when we open **God's Word**.
- Our **echo chambers** are eliminated.
- Your marriage is less likely to **end in divorce**.
- Your time is **precious**.
- We model **importance** for our kids and peers.
- We **disciple** others as we are **disciplined**.
- We have a vessel for **service** and **generosity**.
- Surround our lives in **prayer**.
- **Missionary** tool to reach a lost world.
- **Emergency support** and encouragement.
- We are **refined** by every aspect of relationships.
- **Jesus** did it.
- Life Groups are **fun**.
- Keeps us on track to **eternity in Heaven**.
- It's not about **you**. Nothing is.

## Food for Thought for the week of September 2, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. One important reason for getting connected in a small group is because it's the best place to carry out the over 50 "one another" commands in the New Testament. These commands are nearly impossible to fulfill in a larger group setting or by yourself. Below are few of them. After reading each verse, identify the "one another" command in each one.

John 13:34-35 - (NIV) - <sup>34</sup>"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Romans 12:10 - (NIV) - <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16 - (NIV) - <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. <sup>16a</sup>Do not be conceited.

Romans 14:13 - (NIV) - <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 15:7 - (NIV) - <sup>7</sup>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:14 - (NIV) - <sup>14</sup>I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Colossians 3:16 - (NIV) - <sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Galatians 5:13 - (NIV) - <sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh <sup>13a</sup>; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Ephesians 4:32 - (NIV) - <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3:9 - (NIV) - <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

1 Thessalonians 5:15 - (NIV) - <sup>15</sup>Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Hebrews 3:13 - (NIV) - <sup>13</sup>But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Which one or two of these "one another" commands stand out to you?

Are there any steps you need to take to develop these kinds of relationships in your own life?

2. God never intended for us to face sin and life challenges on our own. His plan has always been for us to be in relationships where we're genuinely known, lovingly supported and honestly challenged. How do the following passages help you understand what your responsibilities are for helping create this kind of environment?

Galatians 6:1-2 - (NIV) - Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Matthew 18:15-17 - (NIV) - <sup>15</sup>"If your brother or sister sins, <sup>16</sup>go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup>But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'<sup>17</sup> <sup>17</sup>If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Ephesians 4:25, 29 & 32 - (NIV) - <sup>25</sup>Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

<sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

<sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Matthew 5:23-24 - (NIV) - <sup>23</sup>"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Can you think of any challenges you might face putting these responsibilities into action?