

“Remember Part 9 - Church Community” (12-15-24)
Finding and Embracing our place in the Family of God

Introduction: The Church is not an institution or social club - it’s about Real Relationships rooted in Jesus

- **FELLOWSHIP**

Acts 2:42 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- **Fellowship** (Koinonia) - Thayer: community, communion, joint participation, intercourse, intimacy
 - **Notice the elements in Acts 2:42** – teaching, breaking of bread, and prayer

Note: Not just a loose association of people, but an intentional growing connection rooted in Jesus!

Romans 14:19 (ESV)

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Example: Bohanans moved early in Covid (Zoom LG, Outdoor gatherings, then Sundays, Now lead a LG)

- **FAMILY**

1 John 3:1a (ESV)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Ephesians 2:19 (ESV)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Note: The elements that protect a healthy family - Unity, Sympathy, Humility, Brotherly Love

Example: Hawkins - From Youth Group to Life Group, Friendship, Vacations, and Church Planting

- **BODY**

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Note: We are a body - all a part of the whole, and what affects one affects all.

Let’s look back at the previous verse . . .

1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Note: We are connected, so be connected!

Romans 12:4-6a (ESV)

[4] For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, [5] so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. [6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them

Note: We are a body – not a business; we are an organism – not an organization!

Example: Luttrells - found us online, jumped into Community, engaged in a LG, now they lead a LG

- **Engaging in Community - Practical Steps . . .**

We provide some structure, but we intentionally don't fill up your calendar so you can have time to tend relationships - be present with your church community

Ways to Engage

- **Foundations** (early 2025) - core church values, meet our leadership team, dinner with Spencer's
- **Life Groups** - These are vital, see: Luttrell and Bohanan examples from earlier
- **Serving** - meets needs / builds connections as we serve side-by-side
Sacrifice for church needs / but also find your sweet spot - use your talents and gifts!
- **Giving** - tons of examples of generously giving and meeting needs throughout NT church.
This isn't my church that I hope you'll support. This is our church, our community, our building, etc.
- **Relationships** - There is no substitute for intentionally pursuing and tending relationships

Conclusion:**Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)**

[24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] 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.