



Pastor Shawn

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"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10

"Live life with a sense of responsibility, not as those who don't know the meaning of life, but as those who do."
Ephesians 5:15

LIFE in community = Interdependence

Dependence \Rightarrow independence \Rightarrow interdependence

"The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it. And the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'"
Genesis 2:15,18

You grow with community, through community, and in community.

"So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 7:12

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."
Romans 12:3
Also read - (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

"If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law".
Romans 13:8

Will I choose to walk alone or walk with others?

"And all the believers met together ...they worshiped together...met in homes... shared their meals... enjoying the goodwill... each day the Lord added to their fellowship."
Acts 2:42-47

Will I choose to pretend or really love them?

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other... When God's people are in need, be ready to help them."
Romans 12:3-13

Will I choose comfort or commitment to change?

"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults...then we will no longer be immature like children.... 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."
Ephesians 4:2,14-16

Will I choose myself or loving others as my life focus?

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had..."
Philippians 2:1-8

Practical ways to start living out Jesus' teaching in Matt 7:12

1. See people through Jesus eyes not my perspective.
2. Learn about and give preference to the interests of others.
3. Don't claim your rights, but rather own your responsibility
4. Define the Christian life as: Loving God & Loving Others

Jesus replied with an illustration: A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes and money, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a Jewish priest came along; but when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt deep pity. Kneeling besides him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two pieces of silver and told him to take care of the man. 'If his bill runs higher than that, he said, I'll pay the difference the next time I am here.' 'Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?' Jesus asked. The man replied, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Then Jesus said, 'Yes, now go and do the same.'"

Luke 10:25-37

Christian community isn't about church services, Bible studies, potlucks...

It is about living in the family of God, with the people of God.

It is about living out the priorities, values of God

It is about supporting, protecting, and guiding others to follow Jesus

It is about learning how to treat people as Jesus did.

It is about your character development.

It is how we become mature in our faith.

It is how we participate in the kingdom of God's mission in the world.

Small Groups

- You can share you struggles
- You can ask for prayers
- You can other questions
- You have get to know each other... have fun.

Acts 2

We grow to maturity when are in relationship with others – Interdependent - we love / serve others –

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. **45** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. **46** They worshiped

together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— **47** all 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.

Share with one another

Care

Love

Serve

Encourage

Build up

Pray

Forgive

Exhort

Be kind and compassionate

Comfort

Teach

Forgive

Bear with

Be patient with

Show hospitality

Confess your sins

The reason you don't want to be in a small group – is why you need people in your life. It challenges your desire to stay away from the challenge others give you – patience, kindness, grace, mercy, ... making others interests more important than your interests...

Ephesians 4

Then 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. **15** Instead, 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. **16** He 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.