

com·mu·ni·ty [kə myōō' ni tē]

a group sharing common characteristics or interests.

At Crossroads Church, we are striving to be a community of believers living out our faith in God together. Just what is “community”? We like the way that Andy Stanley defines “community” in the devotional *Better Together: Seeking God with Others*, when he says:

Why do we need community? From the beginning of creation, being alone was never the plan. So God did something about that by creating fellowship for humans.

That's where *community* comes in.

So what is community? As Christ followers, community is having meaningful relationships where we do life together by sharing, encouraging, serving, forgiving and chasing faithfully after God.

Community is where we can be our true selves with others. It is our safe place; the place where we can share our greatest accomplishments and joys as well as our darkest moments and failures. It is where we show up in each other's lives for the magnificent and the mundane. It is knowing and being known deeply. It is pursuing God and growing into the best version of ourselves for His glory. It is fighting the good fight and helping those around us fight it as well.

The Bible is clear on so many things, and one of them is that we are to love others. There are 59 verses in the New Testament that tell us how to treat one another. Here are several of the *one-anothers* we are called to:

- *serve one another (Galatians 5:13)*
- *honor one another (Philippians 2:3)*
- *encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)*
- *pray for one another (James 5:16)*
- *instruct one another (Romans 15:14)*
- *forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)*

We can't *one-another* one another if we are living our lives in solitude. Not only that, but we will ache from the void that godly relationships fill. When we choose to alienate ourselves from others, *one-anothering* people is beyond our reach. We will miss out on the richness that deep friendships can offer to others and bring to ourselves.

Reflect

- Does being in a community of like-minded Christ followers excite or frighten you? Why?
- Pray for God to show you your next step in developing and participating in community on a deeper level.