



Consistent Community

Fellowship With God's People

Community is not only about being together but growing towards health in all our relationships with God's people in our local congregation and around the world. These relationships should be appropriate, supportive, selfless, rooted in humility, and they should provide avenues for grace-filled accountability. Our love for the local church and God's people around the world should be so overwhelming that it extends to each individual who is part of the family of God.

Indicators of Growth:

1. **Thoughtfulness** - considers and gives attention and care to others and their feelings, needs, dreams, and hurts. (Philippians 2:4)
2. **Friendship** - is the companionship and closeness we are to have with one another. It is the commitment to help form the character in others. This is not to be feared but embraced. Loving friendships are a witness to the world. (Proverbs 27:17)
3. **Obedience** - submitting to do what God requires of us. It is also recognizing the wisdom and direction we receive from other believers, such as pastors, Christian leaders, and our church elders, deacon, or board. As we walk in community with God's people we become stronger. We are better together. (Deut. 13: 4; Prov. 19:16; John 14:14; 15:14; 2 Corinthians 10:5)
4. **Flexibility** - being open to other's plans and ideas and willing to be instructed and challenged to change for the better. (Colossians 3:2)
5. **Supportive** - coming alongside others, sharing our strength and courage in their afflictions and troubles. (Galatians 6:2)
6. **Accountability** - supporting others as they struggle and challenging them to become more like Christ (Galatians 6:1-5, James 5:16)

Ideas for Action to Grow in Consistent Community:

1. Greet one new person each time you attend a church service.
2. Join or lead a small group.
3. Become part of a service team at your church.
4. Share meals, fun, conversation, and life with other believers.

5. Invite non-believing friends into a setting where they will meet your Christian friends and see what loving community looks like.
6. Plan some of your smaller church gatherings, meetings, and events in homes and community buildings instead of everything happening on the church campus.
7. Invite people to your home.
8. Get engaged in mentoring relationships across age groups by offering to serve in your church's ministry for children and youth. .
9. Go on a church mission trip! Close relationships are often formed in these focused times of ministry together.

Resources for Growth in Consistent Community:

Organic Disciples Resources:

1. [*Organic Disciples, Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus*](#) (The Book), Part 6 (Chapters 19-21) on Consistent Community, Pages 203-232.
2. [*Organic Disciples, Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually and Naturally Share Jesus \(Study Guide\)*](#), on Consistent Community, Pages 93-106.
3. [*Organic Disciples, Free Online Video Teaching - Consistent Community*](#)
4. Organic Outreach International website, www.OrganicOutreach.org

Books/Articles

1. Bonhoeffer, Dietrich [*Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian in Community*](#)
2. Cloud, Dr. Henry & John Townsend [*Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know*](#)
3. Donahue, Bill [*The Irresistible Community: An Invitation to Life*](#)
4. Frazee, Randy [*The Connecting Church*](#)
5. Geiger, Eric ["How Community Combats Self-Centeredness"](#) Outreach Magazine, 26 February 2019
6. Getz, Gene [*Building Up One Another*](#)
7. Grenz, Stanley J. [*Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living*](#)
8. Harrington, Bobby and Alex Absalom [*Discipleship that Fits*](#)
9. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 7: The Seismic Shift from Rushing to Slowing" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#)
10. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 10: The Seismic Shift from Burning to Building" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#)
11. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 12: The Seismic Shift from Flattery to Truth-Telling" [*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life*](#)
12. Ryan Hartwig, Courtney Davis, and Jason Sniff [*Leading Small Groups that Thrive*](#)
13. Smith, James Bryan [*The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love*](#)

Websites/Sermons/Podcasts/Bible Studies:

1. ["Not Alone: A Study on Friendship"](#), RightNow Media
2. ["Metrics... Measurements that Matter: Consistent Community"](#) Shoreline Church, Pastor Kevin Harney, 18 March 2018