



You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden....let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14,16 (NLT)

- The sweet spot for every Christ follower is to be used by their **creator**.

Is the **church** God wants us to be reflected in the **person** that I aspire to be?

...go and make followers of all people in the world... Matthew 28:19 (NCV)

...Creatively **love** and **lead** people in a growing **relationship** with **Jesus**.

- When our personal relationship with Jesus becomes a **private**, we can't live out God's **mission** for our lives.

- We need God's Spirit to participate in **community**.

- God created you **in** and made you **for**, community.

God spoke: Let **us** make human beings in **our** image, make them reflecting our nature.. Genesis 1:26 (MSG)

God designed the best **version** of me to be developed in community.

- If I'm going to experience community I have to surrender to **people**.

...submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

Yield to each other as you would to Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NCV)

Without community we lose:

- We lose **perspective** on life.
- We develop a fear of **intimacy**.
- We become more **selfish**.
- We dwarf our **growth** process.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.... 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 4:11-13,16 (NLT)

Statistics tell us:

Our sense of spiritual fulfillment and belonging are closely tied to a shared **commitment** and a shared **life** together.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 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 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. Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

God **works** in the lives of those that devote themselves to community.

We experience community in **Connection Groups**.

Community is:

- Authentic Community is a **heart issue**.

Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts. 1 Peter 1:22 (TLB)

- Authentic Community is a **verb**.

- Authentic Community is "**How**" we do life together.

They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness... Acts 2:46 (TLB)

- Authentic Community is "**Why**" we do life together.

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:17-18

Application Steps:

- I devote myself to people that **encourage** me spiritually.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

- I devote myself to people that **know** me intimately.

..you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

- I devote myself to people that **care** for me consistently.

God wanted the different parts of the body to care the same for each other. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part of our body is honored, all the other parts share its honor. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (NCV)

We are cared for **best**, by those that know us **most**.

They were devoted to the **presence** of God, the heart of God, and to living out the mission of God. - The Acts 2 Church



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday?
- Why are relationships so important to our spiritual growth?
- In your own words, what is authentic community and why is it so important?
- Obviously you are in a Connection Group, how would communicate the value of Connection Groups to someone that doesn't attend one currently?
- How is Authentic community a verb? What are some of the activities that bring us together in spirit?
- Talk through the application steps. Which have been most impactful in your life?
- What are some ways that we can enhance our experience with authentic community at the Quest?

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OTHER NOTES:



Doing life together

Today's Talk..



"COMMUNITY"

Get connected! Try out a Connection Group.



Information available in the courtyard.