

> LOVE ^Q

- Jesus says that those who belong to him will have **greater love**.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

...love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35

- Greater love for others is displayed in my **commitment** to others.

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Acts 2:41-42 (MSG)

A few definitions of commitment:

- Commitment means the absence of a **divided loyalty**.
- Commitment means **staying loyal** to what you said you were going to do long after **the feeling** you said it with left you.
- Commitment means doing whatever it takes to see my **promise** through.

Commitment tells my feelings to “**fall in line**” because my decision has been made.

Our Vision is:

To **creatively love** and **lead** people a **growing relationship** with **Jesus**.

- Our **strategies** describe how we do the vision.

The strategy we're looking at today is:

- Discovering **Partnership**.

Partnership = A **commitment** to Doing life together.

Partnership happens:

- Partnership happens when we belong to **Jesus**.

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT)

Partnership begins with **relationship**.

Partnership also happens:

- Jesus calls us to **belong** on a **team**.

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. Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:16-17 (NCV)

God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (GWT)

Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. Galatians 6:4-5 (MSG)

Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace. 1 Peter 4:10 (NCV)

Partnership also happens:

- Jesus calls us to **belong** to a **small group**.

For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20 (NLT)
And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other, selling their possessions and dividing with those in need. 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, praising God. The whole city was favorable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved. Acts 2:44-47 (TLB)

The goal of small groups:

- People to **do life** with.
- People to **care** for.
- People to **share** with.
- People to **grow** with.

Why Community is important:

- I need people that I'm **committed to love**.

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 3:18 (MSG)

- Because God meets our **needs** in community.

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" Romans 15:1-2 (MSG)
I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:20-21 (NLT)

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

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 12:5 (NLT)



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

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? Explain why?
- Why do you think being committed to a church is such a difficult decision for some?
- From the Talk on Sunday, Why would you say the strategy of Partnership is important?
- Why does partnership begin with a relationship with Jesus? explain.
- Why is being on a team and serving others important to being a partner at The Quest?
- Why is belonging to a small group essential in partnership?
- Discuss the goals of a small group. Why are these important to our vision?
- How do the goals of small groups help us to reach the lost?
- Why do you think people have a difficult time committing to being on a team and attending a small group?

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Partnership
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2023



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Partnership

Sunday, February 12th, 2023

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