

COMMUNITY: Where U and I Belong

The Vanishing Village – June 5, 2016

1 John 1:1-3 (NIV) The idea of community comes from God.

Connectedness is not the same thing as knowing many people. People may have many contacts in many networks, but they may not have any friends. – John Ortberg, “The Me I Want To Be”

1. I need others to walk with me. (1 John 1:5-7)

- Walking in the light means vulnerability.
- Fellowship is created when we share vulnerability.
- The blood of Jesus is applied best in community.

Community is God’s answer to lonliness.

2. I need others to watch out for me. (1 John 2:9-11)

- Safety – “In the multitude of counselors, there is safety.” (Pr. 11:14)
- Support – “When you run alone, you run fast! When you run together, you run far!” **African Proverb**
- Smarts – “All of us are smarter than one of us.”

Community is God’s answer to defeat.

3. I need others to work with me in a crisis. (1 John 3:16-19)

- We show each other who God is when we love each other.
- The best time to prepare for a crisis is yesterday.

Community is God’s answer to despair.

4. I need others to win the war of fear. (1 John 4:18-21)

- The antidote for fear is not faith...it’s love.

Community is God’s answer to anxiety.

(1 John 5:2-5)

***Personal Community Inventory:**

When something goes wrong, do I have at least one friend I can easily talk with about it?

Yes No

Do I have a friend I can drop in on at any time without calling ahead?

Yes No

Is there someone who could accurately name my greatest fears and temptations?

Yes No

Do I have one or more friends whom I meet with regularly?

Yes No

Do I have a friend I know well enough to trust their confidentiality?

Yes No

If I received good news like a promotion, do I have a friend I would call immediately just to let them know?

Yes No

If I can’t say “yes” to most of these questions, I may want to look for a small group to join, or invite someone out for coffee as a first step toward connecting.