

Life Together



In Christ we, though many, form one body, and
each member belongs to all the others.

(Romans 12:5)



Christian Community vs Worldly Independence

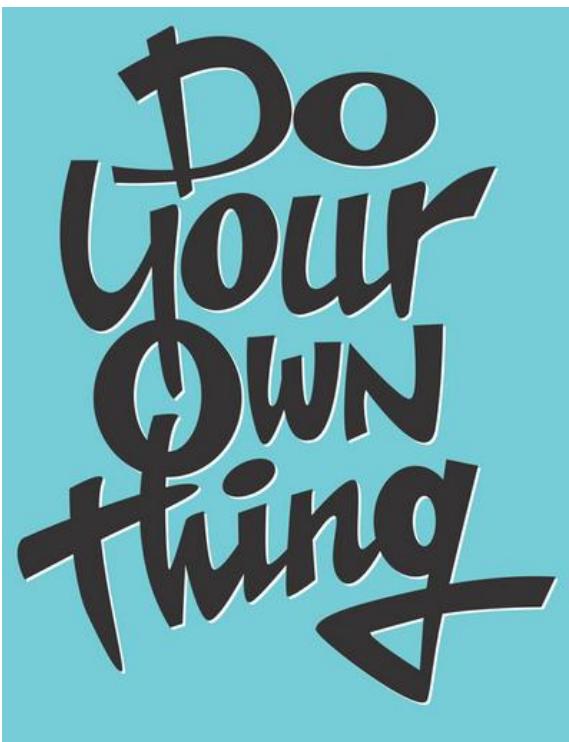


**Be all
you can
be.**

It's my life

*be***STRONG**
*and***SHINE**

HAVE IT YOUR WAY®



*just
be
yourself*

**MY WAY
OR THE HIGHWAY**

**Independence is one of the most important goals
of our American Culture.**

(Money, comfort and pleasure are close seconds.)



Independence: freedom from the control, influence, support, aid of others.



In Christ we, though many, form one body, and
each member belongs to all the others.

(Romans 12:5)



In America;
We eat alone...



In America;
We watch alone...



In America;
We drive alone...



I want to eat what I want to eat!

I want to watch what I want to watch!

I want to go where I want to go!

I will get there when I want to get there!

I will leave when I want to leave!

I will say, do, think, be what I want to be!

And I don't want anyone
telling me what to do or
how to do it!

In America;
This is the extent of our community...



And this...



What are some ways that you have seen this independent, individualistic, flying solo mentality in our culture?

The command for Christian
community in the Bible will simply
not co-exist with the average
American lifestyle
without some radical changes.

There are 100 references to
“one another” in
94 New Testament verses!

Obviously we can not cover all 100 in 35minutes... but here are 7 that give you a glimpse...

**Live in harmony with
one another.**

(Rom 12:16)

**Be devoted to
one another in brotherly
love. Honor one another
above yourselves.**

(Rom 12:10)

**...agree with one another
so that there may be no
divisions among you and
that you may be perfectly
united...**

(1 Cor 1:10)

**...serve one another
in love...
(Gal 5:13)**

**Be completely humble and
gentle; be patient, bearing
with one another in love.**

(Eph 4:2)

**Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving
each other...**

(Eph 4:32)

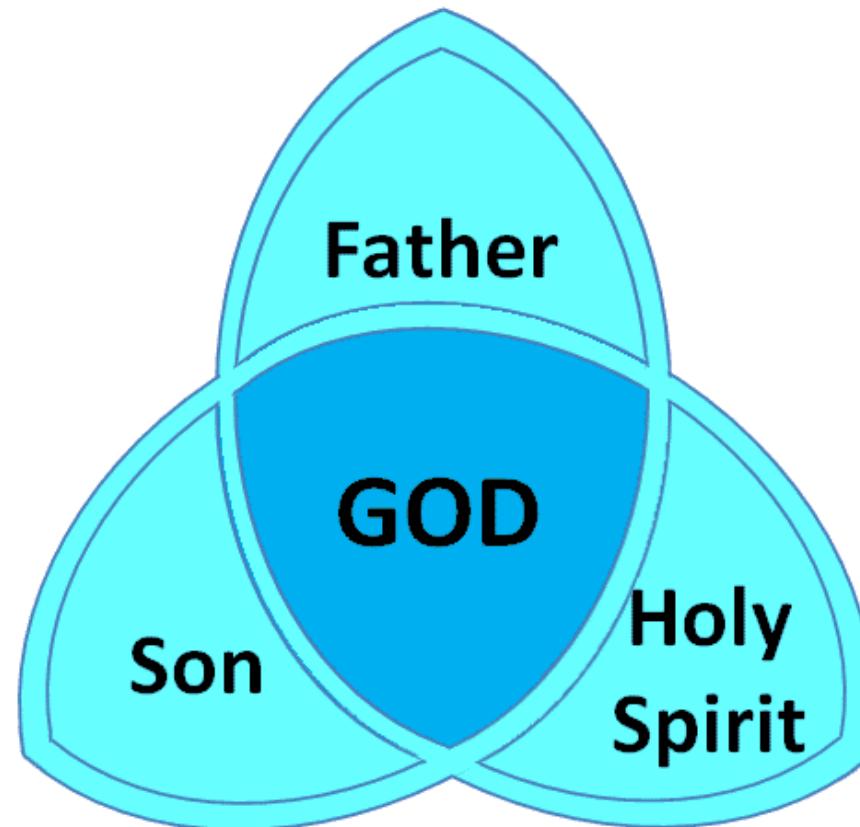
**Let us not give up meeting
together, as some are in the
habit of doing, but let us
encourage one another...**

(Heb 10:25)

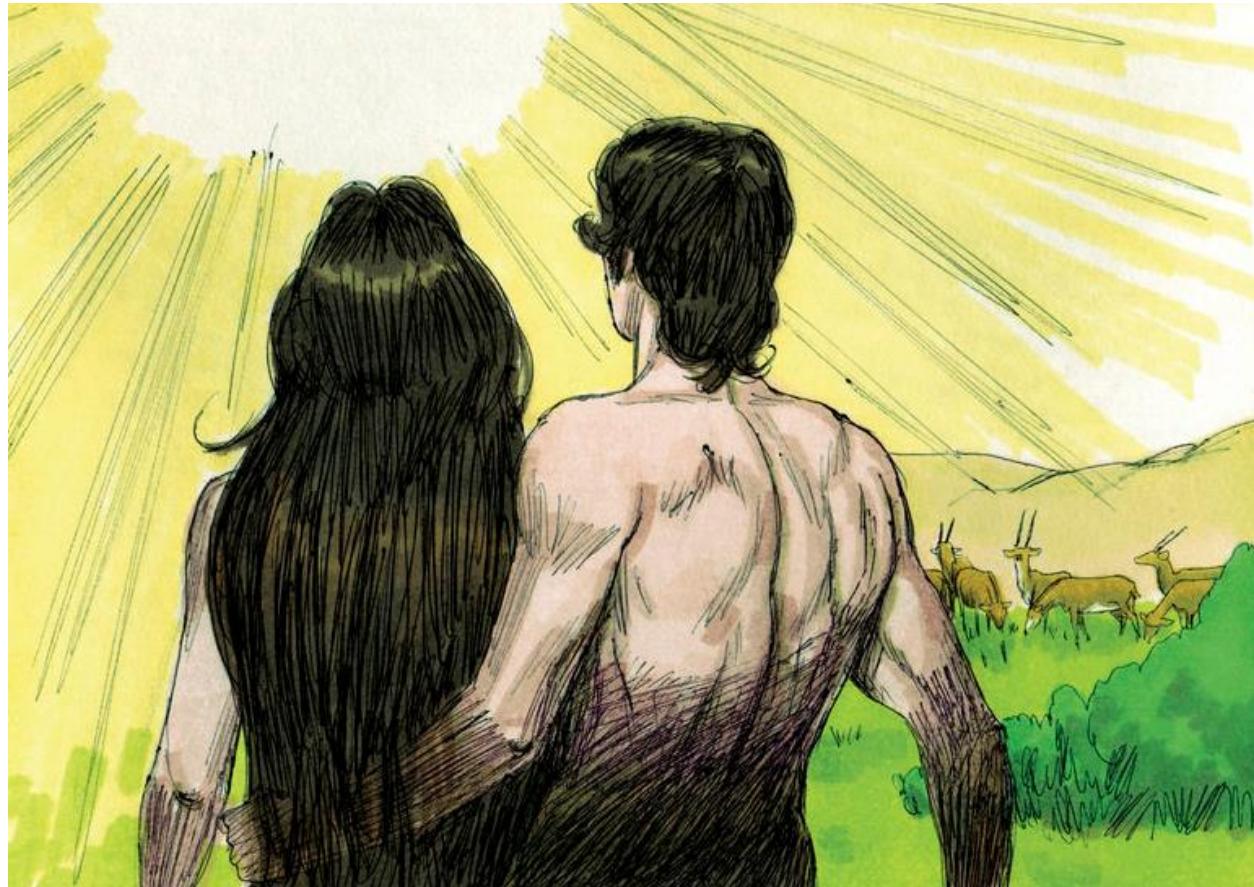
Logic tells us that we can not be there for one another, if we are not spending time together.



God has
always existed in the context of
community!



And from the very beginning God has wanted to exist within the context of community with humans.



How
Should
THIS AFFECT
me ?



1) We have to **understand** that our
culture has taught us to crave
independence & isolation.



PRACTICAL ACTION



1

We have to understand that it is our culture that tells us that we should live on the island of self. Most other world cultures are very communal.

2

Our tendency in the American Culture will be to default to the comfort of individualism. But we do not have to do what the culture around us demands.

2) We have to understand that our sin nature hates community because it means **accountability**.



PRACTICAL ACTION



1

We have to understand that Satan knows that God's design is for Christians to function in community with him and each other. We have to realize then that he plans to DESTROY that design!

2

Our tendency in the flesh will be to default to the comfort of self-isolation...where there are no hard questions, no accountability & no uncomfortable demands.

3) We have to actively **resist** the allure & comfort of individualism.



PRACTICAL ACTION



1

Knowing the power of our culture & our flesh...the fight for community will always be a hard battle...and it will never go away totally.

2

We must believe & agree that the value of community is important enough to fight for.

4) We have to **agree** that God is right
and that community is his idea and
his ideas are always **best!**



PRACTICAL ACTION



1

We have to believe that community is worth the fight and the initial discomfort because it is something ordained by God... and God always knows what is best.

2

We have to fight for, schedule & commit to community regardless of how we feel at the time...because it is not only right it is best.

5) We have to purposely **fight** for community in our lives.



PRACTICAL ACTION



1

Community doesn't just happen. It is something that we have to plan. It is something we have to schedule.

2

We have to make time for relationships. We have to put people above our other plans. We have to commit to church events, small groups, Bible clubs and be fully invested at them.