

Transformed  
From Isolation to Communion

Reflect

- 1) In your own words, define Christian community.
- 2) Do you think a person can be a Christian in isolation, apart from a community of faith? Why or why not?
- 3) In your view, what leads to isolation in a person's life? What would be the anecdote to isolation?

Read Your Bible

- Romans 12:4-8
- Acts 2:42-47
- Matthew 18:19-20
- John 14:15-21

Apply God's Word to Your Life

- 1) Based on scripture, do you think Christian community is important for a follower of Christ? Why or why not?
- 2) Matthew states, "Where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them". What does this say to you about Christians who try to live out their faith in isolation, apart from community?
- 3) Acts 2 is an image of early Christian community. Name all the things those Christians did that bonded them together in communion with one another.
- 4) Christian communion goes beyond our connection to one another. John states, "You will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." What does this mean to you?
- 5) What does communion with God look like in a Christian's life? Describe it.
- 6) Romans 12 states that as the human body is one with many members so we too as God's people are one body and we belong to each other. What does belonging to each other as followers of Jesus mean to you? What does it look like in day-to-day living?
- 7) Based on these scripture readings, describe what factors make Christian community important to you?

Christian community is essential for a believer. In fact, people fall away from their faith without a regular connection to a community of faith. Fellowship with other followers of Jesus helps us grow and serve and reach out in ways that we by ourselves could never accomplish. More than that, we experience fellowship with God as the word of God is proclaimed and we worship Him together. As Jesus promised, "Wherever two or three are gathered together I am there with you." In isolation it is easier for us to ignore Jesus' main teachings to love one another and to work at the critical Christian practice of forgiveness. Forgiveness is essential in Christian community. Scripture admonishes us that to be and become who God desires us to be as His people we must move from isolation to communion with one another and with God.

Pray

Lord, help me realize today that my community of faith is essential to who I am as a follower of Jesus. I need You and I need Your church, O God. I pray for my church that Your Spirit would keep her focused on You alone. Mold me and shape me into a member of the body of Christ that I may reflect Your Son's commands to love one another and to work at forgiving as I have been forgiven. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.