

The Uncommon Community

..."It is not good for man to be alone..." Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

GOD'S ANSWER TO LONELINESS = His Community = His Family = HIS CHURCH

...God's family (community) is the church of the living God...

1 Timothy 3:15 (GW)

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. **Eph. 1:4-5 (NLT)**

"Love your spiritual family." 1 Peter 2:17 (MSG)

HOW TO GET GROUPED

Step 1: CHOOSE TO BELIEVE IN THE CONNECTOR - JESUS CHRIST.

"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ... Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

Christ makes us one body (one family, one community)... connected to each other. Romans 12:5 (GWT)

STEP 2: CHOOSE TO BELONG TO HIS FAMILY.

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 12:4-5 (NLT)**

STEP 3: CHOOSE TO SHARE LIFE WITH OTHERS.

And all the believers met together...and shared everything they had. Acts 2:44 (NLT)

They shared... Experiences, Homes, Pain, Joy, Food, Clothing, Stuff, Finances, Faith

STEP 4: CHOOSE TO GET <u>INVOLVED</u> IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR GOD.

...We are partners working together for God... 1 Corinthians 3:9 (GNT)

Step 5: CHOOSE TO INTENTIONALLY LOVE LIKE A REAL FAMILY.

Be devoted to each other like a loving family... Romans 12:10 (GWT)

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:1-2 (NIV)

Going deeper on your own. This week read the book of Ephesians. As you do keep in mind, Paul is writing this letter to the church body in Ephesus (meaning this was written to believers). This could have easily been written to Center Point Church in North Richland Hills, Texas. Now with that in perspective, what is the overall theme of the book? Why do you think Paul wrote it? As a member of a new testament church, what is this telling you to do as far as being part of His church? What is the blessing and what is the responsibility? Pastor Jay made the statement, "being a follower of Christ is not just about believing in Jesus but belonging to His family." Do you agree? Why or why not? What is the benefit of belonging? If you are not a member of God's church, why? Pastor Jay also commented, "a Christian without a church family is like a football player with no team or a band member with no band." We are orphaned and vulnerable. Pray today and ask God to help you have the courage to give your life to Him and join His local family. Then choose to join a body of believers.