

WHY WE NEED EACH OTHER

Better Together
Rick Warren

"Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others." Romans 12:5 (NLT)

1. I NEED OTHERS TO _____ WITH ME

"Just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him"
Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

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

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . Instead, let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)

COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO: _____

"When you gather, each one of you be prepared with something useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight . . . Take your turn, with no one person taking over. That way . . . you all learn from each other." 1 Corinthians 14:26, 30-31(MSG)

"As each part does its work, it helps the other parts grow, so Christ's whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

"Open your homes to each other without complaining." 1 Peter 4:9 (GNT)

2. I NEED OTHERS TO _____ WITH ME

"God made us to do good works, which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together." Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NCV)

COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO: _____

"Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith." Galatians 6:10 (MSG)

3. I NEED OTHERS TO WATCH OUT FOR ME

"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own." Philipians 2:4 (GNT)

"Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord's followers should." Hebrews 13:1 (CEV)

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO: _____

"If one person falls, another can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble." Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NLT)

4. I NEED OTHERS TO _____ WITH ME

"You should be like one big family, full of sympathy toward each other"
1 Peter 3:8 (TLB)

"If one member suffers, all suffer together." 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

COMMUNITY IS GOD'S ANSWER TO: _____

"Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15 (GNT)

"Encourage each other and strengthen one another." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GW)

5. I NEED OTHERS TO _____ WITH ME

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35 (NLT)

"The Holy Spirit doesn't want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them." 2 Timothy 1:7 (TLB)

GOD'S ANSWER TO FEAR IS _____

"You are working together and struggling side by side to get others to believe the Good News." Philipians 1:27 (CEV)

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REACHING OUT TOGETHER

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"you are standing together side by side with one strong purpose—to tell the Good News." Philippians 1:27 (TLB)

"You've been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ."
Philippians 1:5 (NLT)

HOW CAN OUR SMALL GROUP "PARTNER" TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS?

P

"Pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people his message."
Colossians 4:3 (NCV)

- Make a group prayer list.

A

"Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ."
1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (TLB)

- Discover the common interests in your group.

R

"Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives." 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NCV)

"It is not my business to judge those who are not part of the church."
1 Corinthians 5:12 (NCV)

"Whatever we do, it is certainly not for our own profit but because Christ's love controls us now." 2 Corinthians 5:14 (TLB)

- Ask God to give you a deeper love for others.

T

"You are . . . God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you." 1 Peter 2:9 (MSG)

"Listen, and I'll tell you what God has done for me." Psalm 66:16 (NCV)

- Write out your story & share it with your group.

N

"Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people." Romans 12:16 (CEV)

"In his home Levi (Matthew) gave a big dinner party for Jesus. Many fellow tax collectors and other guests were also there." Luke 5:29 (CEV)

"The Holy Spirit does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them." 2 Timothy 1:7 (TLB)

- Bring a friend to your group. Plan a party.

E

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

"When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'"
Luke 5:20 (NIV)

- Never give up on anyone.

R

"Whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus."
Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

"Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care of your own business, and do your own work. If you do, people who are not believers will respect you."
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NCV)

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WHAT DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS AND WHAT BUILDS THEM

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"Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other."
Romans 12:5 (GW)

1. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"What causes fights and quarrels? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it." James 4:1-2 (NIV)

"Selfishness only causes trouble." Proverbs 28:25 (GNT)

_____ BUILDS THEM

"Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."
Philippians 2:4 (GNT)

"The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—and ignoring God—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, and eternal life." Galatians 6:8 (MSG)

"Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness." Galatians 5:16 (MSG)

2. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"Pride leads to arguments." Proverbs 13:10 (TLB)

"Pride will destroy a person: a proud attitude leads to ruin." Proverbs 16:18 (NCV)

"First pride, then the crash- the bigger the ego, the harder the fall." (MSG)

_____ BUILDS THEM

"Live in harmony, be sympathetic, love each other, have compassion, and be humble." 1 Peter 3:8 (GW)

"Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves . . . your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God." Philippians 2:3, 5-6 (NCV/NLT)

3. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"The fear of human opinion disables." Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)

Adam: *"I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."* Genesis 3:10 (NIV)

_____ BUILDS THEM

"Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid . . . it shows that his love has not been perfected in us." 1 John 4:18 (NLT)

"All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them . . . We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love . . . And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid"
1 John 4:15-17 (NLT)

4. _____ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

"To worry yourself to death with resentment is a foolish, senseless thing to do."
Job 5:2 (GNT)

"Since my heart was embittered and my soul deeply wounded, I was stupid and could not understand." Psalm 73:21-22 (NAB)

"Look after each other . . . Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives."
Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)

_____ BUILDS THEM

"You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."
Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

"Once our lives were full of resentment and envy. But then . . . Christ saved us—not because we were good enough to be saved but because of his kindness and love—by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit . . . all because of what Jesus our Savior did so that he could declare us good in God's eyes." Titus 3:3-7 (TLB)

The Lord says, *"Forget what happened before and do not think about the past. I am going to do something new . . . I will make rivers on dry land."*
Isaiah 43:18-19 (GW)

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HOW WE HELP EACH OTHER GROW

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"From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son" Romans 8:29 (TLB)

"Encourage each other and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11(NIV)

1. BY _____ EACH OTHER'S _____

- **WITH** _____
"Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you" Romans 15:7 (NIV)
- **WITH** _____
"Give special attention to those who are in the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10 (NCV)
- **WITH** _____
"Love one another with brotherly affection as members of one family"
Romans 12:10 (AMP)
- **WITH** _____
"Brothers and sisters . . . appreciate those who work hard among you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you." 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NCV)

2. BY _____ FOR EACH OTHER'S _____

"Epaphras . . . always prays for you that you will grow to be spiritually mature."
Colossians 4:12 (NCV)

"I pray . . . you'll be able to feel and understand, how long, wide, deep, and high Christ's love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves"
Ephesians 3:18-19 (TLB)

"I pray . . . you will always be eager to do right." Hebrews 13:21 (CEV)

"I pray God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him." Romans 15:13 (NCV)

"I pray God . . . would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation"
Ephesians 1:17 (GW)

"I pray the Lord will guide you to be as loving as God and as patient as Christ."
2 Thessalonians 3:5 (CEV)

"I pray God . . . may strengthen you with power through his Spirit."
Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)

"May . . . God develop maturity in you, so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all." Romans 15:5 (MSG)

3. BY _____ OUR OWN _____

"Tell each other the truth, because we all belong to each other."
Ephesians 4:25 (NCV)

BENEFITS OF HONESTY

- _____
"Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (TLB)
- _____
"Anyone who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance."
Proverbs 28:13 (TLB)
- _____
"When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, God will lift you up and give you honor." James 4:10 (NLT)
- _____
"If we live in the light . . . then we have fellowship with one another"
1 John 1:7 (GNT)

4. BY _____ EACH OTHER'S _____

"Keep yourself in training for a godly life." 1 Timothy 4:7 (GNT)

"I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." Romans 1:12 (NCV)

1. Commit to _____ **Jesus Christ.**
2. Commit to _____ **other believers.**
3. Commit to _____ **in God's Word.**
4. Commit to _____ **in ministry.**
5. Commit to _____ **the Good News.**

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SERVING TOGETHER

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“agree with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.” Philippians 2:2 (NLT)

1. _____
“We work together as partners who belong to God.” 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NLT)
2. _____
“Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of Christ’s Body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much, would we?”
Romans 12:5 (MSG)
3. _____
“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”
Ecclesiastes 4:9 (GNT)

“The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose.” 1 Corinthians 3:8 (NLT)

WHAT IT TAKES TO SERVE AS A TEAM

- T** _____
“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care.” 1 Timothy 6:20 (NIV)
“Many people claim to be loyal, but it is hard to find a trustworthy person.”
Proverbs 20:6 (NCV)
1. _____
“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”
Luke 16:10 (NIV)
 1. _____
“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.”
Proverbs 11:13 (NIV)
 2. _____
“Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble.” Proverbs 17:17 (MSG)

- E** _____
“Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic.” 1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)
1. _____
“Be quick to listen and slow to speak” James 1:19 (NIV)
 2. _____
“A person’s thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out.” Proverbs 20:5 (GNT)
 3. _____
“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”
Romans 12:15 (NASB)

- A** _____
“Be faithful, loving, and easy to get along with.” 2 Timothy 2:22 (CEV)
1. _____
“Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, ‘How can I help?’” Romans 15:2 (MSG)
 2. _____
“The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them.”
Proverbs 18:15 (TLB)
 3. _____
“God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts.” Romans 12:6 (GW)
 4. _____
“Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.” Ephesians 4:2 (TLB)

- M** _____
“be of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” Philippians 2:2 (NASB)
“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)
“Live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ . . . standing strong with one purpose, working together as one for the faith of the Good News.”
Philippians 1:27 (NCV)

LIVING A GENEROUS LIFE

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KOINONIA (FELLOWSHIP) IS TRANSLATED:

- Community (Philippians 2:1 MSG)
- Participation (1 Corinthians 10:16 NIV)
- Contribution (Romans 15:26 NIV)
- Generosity (2 Corinthians 9:13 GW)

WHY BE GENEROUS?

1. IT CREATES _____

"Your generosity . . . not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces prayers of thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 (GW)

"Your heart will be wherever your treasure is." Matthew 6:21 (NCV)

"The community of believers . . . shared everything in common." Acts 4:32 (NAB)

2. IT DEFEATS _____

"You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

3. IT STRENGTHENS _____

"Your giving proves the reality of your faith" 2 Corinthians 9:13 (PHILLIPS)

"Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

"God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and . . . plenty left over to give joyfully to others." 2 Corinthians 9:8 (TLB)

4. IT'S AN INVESTMENT _____

"Use your worldly resources to benefit others . . . In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven." Luke 16:9 (NLT)

"Tell the rich to use their money to do good . . . giving happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well." 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (TLB)

5. IT BLESSES ME _____

"Give generously . . . and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)

Luke 6:38, Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:25, Psalm 112:5-6

6. IT PRODUCES _____

"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." Acts 20:35 (GNT)

7. IT MAKES ME _____

"We all live off God's generous bounty, gift after gift after gift." John 1:16 (MSG)

"Everything we have has come from you Lord, and we can only give you what is yours already!" 1 Chronicles 29:14 (TLB)

"You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts." 2 Corinthians 9:13 (NLT)

HOW CAN I PRACTICE GENEROSITY?

"If you're really eager to give, it isn't important how much you are able to give." 2 Corinthians 8:12 (NLT)

"You must make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

"Celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honor the Lord, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you." Deuteronomy 16:10 (GNT)

"Remember the generosity of Jesus Christ, the Lord of us all. He was rich beyond our telling, yet he became poor for your sake so that his poverty might make you rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9 (PHILLIPS)

"We are saved because Jesus . . . out of sheer generosity moved to save us" Acts 15:11 (MSG)