



## YOUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM

Acts 2:42-47

- **We all need a support system to help us survive and thrive in life.**
- The Lord - *"It is not good for the man to be alone."* (Genesis 2:18)
- **One of the chief struggles of American Christianity is to overcome our culture's infatuation with individualism.**
- *"And now I see the face of god, and I raise this god over the earth, this god whom men have sought since men came into being, this god who will grant them joy and peace and pride. This god, this one word: 'I.'" -Ayn Rand*
- **A fundamental truth of the Christian life is we were made to belong - to the Lord and to His church.**
- Paul - *"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:28)
- Jesus - *"For where two or three gather together as My followers, I am there among them."* (Matthew 18:20)
- Paul - *"I am writing these things to you now. . . so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth."* (1 Timothy 3:14-15)
- **In order to fully experience transformation, we need to understand how God uses Christian community in our lives.**
- ***How can we experience the transformation that takes place in Christian community?***

***We Can Experience Transformation In Community Because:***

**COMMUNITY HAS SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO US**

***In A Life Group We:***

- **STUDY GOD'S WORD TOGETHER**
  - *"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."* (Acts 2:42)
  - **At Celebration we believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, authoritative and true Word of God, and that it is relevant to every area of our lives.**

- Paul - *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”* (2 Timothy 3:16)
- **PRACTICE LEARNING HOW TO LOVE**
  - *“All the believers devoted themselves...to fellowship...”* (Acts 2:42)
  - *“They were like family to each other...”* (Acts 2:42 CEV)
  - *“They committed themselves to life together...”* (Acts 2:42 MSG)
  - **Loving others is a difficult skill for most to master, and Life Groups offer a living workshop in loving others.**
- **HAVE FUN TOGETHER!**
  - *“They...shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.”* (Acts 2:46-47)
  - **Life can be pretty fun when you’re spending it with people chasing after the Lord.**
- **PRAY FOR EACH OTHER**
  - *“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”* (Acts 2:42)
  - **Prayer may be the most critical and valuable spiritual discipline the Christian has; it is both a means to an end, and an end in itself.**
- **ENCOURAGE AND HELP EACH OTHER**
  - *“And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.”* (Acts 2:44-45)
  - **God wants His people to identify and develop their serving abilities in the context of a small community of Christians.**
  - *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”* (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Which of the above experiences do I value the most, and why?**

***We Can Experience Transformation In Community Because:***

**WE HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY**

***We Are A Blessing To Others When We:***

- **MAKE OUR GROUP A PRIORITY**
  - *“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...”* (Hebrews 10:25)
  - **Many of the times we “don’t get something out of it” are because we “didn’t put something into it.”**
- **OFFER OUR THOUGHTS WITH HUMILITY**
  - *“Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”* (Romans 12:16)
  - *“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”* (Philippians 2:3-4)

- “Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” -Rick Warren
- **TREAT OTHERS WITH COURTESY**
  - “Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not to have quarrels over opinions.” (Romans 14:1 NASB)
  - **We have to come to a place of being able to agree on the things of God while also disagreeing on the things of the world.**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE OUR FAULTS WITH HONESTY**
  - “But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)
  - **The work of keeping up appearances is exhausting and incompatible with following Jesus.**
  - “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)
  - **Sometimes our own honesty emboldens others to be honest.**
- **SHARE OTHERS’ PROBLEMS WITH SYMPATHY**
  - “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)
  - **We should have compassion for others because we belong to one another.**
  - “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.” (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER WITH ACCOUNTABILITY**
  - “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)
  - Paul - “When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.” (Romans 1:12)
- **What can I best contribute to a Life Group?**
- “And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)
- **When Christians do small group community right, others will come to faith in Jesus.**
- **In one week, we want to launch 200 Transformed groups where anyone can learn how to be transformed in the context of Christian community.**
- **Where and when can I launch a Transformed group?**

### Digging Deeper

- To HOST a Transformed group, or to connect to one, visit [celebrationchurch.org/transformed](http://celebrationchurch.org/transformed).
- To join our *Journey Through The Bible* devotional plan, register at [celebrationchurch.org/devotions](http://celebrationchurch.org/devotions).