

The Christian Arsenal

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YOU'VE GOT TO GET CONNECTED Essentials for 21st Century Living

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Part 3 of 9

“It is not good for man to be alone.” Genesis 2:18

Psychologists call this a universal need to belong.

God’s word for “connecting with others”: This word is called fellowship

Fellowship is more than socializing.

Fellowship is more than networking.

Fellowship is more than making contacts with contacts.

Fellowship is more than just spending time with people you love.

Fellowship in its truest sense is soul to soul connection.

I. WHY IS IT VITAL TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS?

There are emotional reasons.

There are physical reasons.

There are spiritual reasons.

II. WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED?

4 Metaphors for being part of a church

1. IT’S LIKE BEING A BRICK IN A BUILDING

“You believers are like a building that God owns ... Jesus is the most important stone in the building and the whole building is joined together in Christ ... You are being built into a place where God lives through the Spirit.” Eph 2:20, 22 (ICB)

“We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.” Eph. 2:21 (NLT)

- In a BUILDING, the connected parts support each other

2. IT’S LIKE BEING A PART OF A BODY

“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ’s Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each of us needs the others.” Rom. 12:4-5 (LB)

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Notice 5 things from this verse:

1. First, notice that in a church we are all different.
2. We all have different roles to play, work to do, niches to fill.
3. We are all needed to make the body complete
4. We all belong to each other.
5. We all need to be connected to each other.

“In Christ’s Body, we’re all connected to each other ...” Eph 4:25b (Mes)

“We are joined together in His Body by His strong sinews, and we grow as we get our nourishment and strength from God.” Col. 2:19 (NLT)

- In a BODY, the connected parts grow together

3. IT’S LIKE BEING A SHEEP IN A FLOCK

“God made us, and we are His. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.” Ps. 100:3 (NLT)

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. A hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep, so when the wolf comes he abandons the sheep and runs away and then the wolves attack the flock and scatter it. A hired hand runs away because he cares nothing for the sheep. But I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me and I lay down my life for my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice and I know them and they follow me and I give them eternal life and they shall never perish and no one can ever snatch them out of my hands.” John 10:11-14, 27,28

- In a FLOCK, the sheep are protected and cared for.

“Take care of God’s flock, His people, that you are responsible for. Watch over them because you want to, not because you are forced to do it.” I Peter 5:2 (ICB)

4. IT’S LIKE BEING A MEMBER OF A FAMILY

“I want you to know how people who are members of God’s family must live. God’s family is the church ...” I Tim. 3:15 (GWT)

“Love each other like brothers and sisters.” Rom 12:10 (NCV)
The phrase “one another” is used 58 times in the New Testament

- In a FAMILY, the members love each other

How can I get connected to *this* church family?

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“First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God’s will,
they gave themselves to us as well.” 2 Cor. 8:5 (GN)