



February 16, 2020
Pastor Matt Doan

What's the Point of Community? Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

Community Craved Genesis 1:26; Genesis 2:18; Genesis 3:8

- Community with God: *"Let us make man in our image..."* - Genesis 1:26
- Community with Others: *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'" - Genesis 2:18*
- Sin's entrance into the world cuts us off from communion with God and others: *"They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."* - Genesis 3:8

Community Crushed Ecclesiastes 4:1-8;13-16

Ecclesiastes 4:1 – *"Then I looked again at all the acts of oppression which were being done under the sun"*

- Oppression (Ecclesiastes 4:1-3)
- Rivalry (Ecclesiastes 4:4-6)
- Greed (Ecclesiastes 4:7-8)
- Selfish Leadership (Ecclesiastes 4:13-16)

Community Cultivated Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Ecclesiastes 4:12 – *"A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart."*

- We can accomplish more (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
- We can be helped up when we fall (Ecclesiastes 4:10)
- We can keep going on the journey (Ecclesiastes 4:11)
- We can be better together (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

"We weren't created to be independent, autonomous, or self-sufficient. We were made to live in a humble, worshipful, and loving dependency upon God and in a loving and humble interdependency with others. Our lives were designed to be community projects. Yet, the foolishness of sin tells us that we have all that we need within ourselves. So we settle for relationships that never go beneath the casual. We defend ourselves when the people around us point out a weakness or a wrong. We hold our struggles within, not taking advantage of the resources God has given us."

- Paul Tripp, Author

- 1) God created us for community with Him and with others. How have you seen evidence of this created desire for community with God and others in your life and the lives of those around you?
- 2) Our sin nature naturally crushes community. How have you seen sin ruin your community with God and others?
- 3) Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 gives us some examples of how to cultivate community and the blessings of community. What blessings or gifts have you received from your communion with God and with others?

Next Steps:

VOLUNTEER WITH BRIDGE: Bridge exists to help those with special needs and disabilities engage in the life of our church family! Join our team on Sundays by becoming a Bridge Buddy, or volunteering with the Bridge Adults LifeGroup. Contact Melissa Brosch at mbrosch@calvarylife.org or visit the Bridge kiosk in the Lobby today. Learn more about Bridge and the 8th Annual Disability Ministry Conference hosted at Calvary on April 25 at calvarylife.org/bridge

SIGN UP FOR CAMP: Calvary provides camps and retreats because we have seen the power of these focused times in building deeper connections with God and others. Join us in 2020 at Hume Lake (6th-12th Graders), House Boat (College), Lady Camp, Man Camp and more. Registration opens on March 1 at calvarylife.org/camps

JOIN A GROUP OR GATHERING: We discover God's best way to live and the full life that Jesus offers in a Spirit-filled community, as we live out our purpose in the Christian life with one another. To see what's available at Calvary this season, check out the Groups and Gatherings Wall in the Lobby after the service, or visit calvarylife.org/groups

Today's Service:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The juice represents the blood of Christ shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-34).

GIVING: The offering is received each Sunday as a way to express trust in God and worship Him through giving. It's also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of giving 10% as a baseline, but the New Testament calls Jesus' followers to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping further ministry locally and globally. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at any time during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.