

# LIKE IT OR NOT WE NEED EACH OTHER!

If we want friends, we have to be friendly and become interested in people...to be intentional!

Supporting relationships and an authentic community does not just happen.

It takes a deliberate decision (*to be intentional*) to create and to form close relationships, this doesn't come naturally to us!

The Bible reinforces the idea that creating authentic and supporting relationships is a spiritual '*discipline.*'

***Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

***vs 23: Let us hold unswervingly***

**Life's circumstances have a tendency to swerve us off course.**

*(sin, wrong attitudes, sickness, grief, loss of a job, divorce etc.)*

The most experienced Christian can stray off course. **Life has no favourites!**

*vs 23 (TPT) ...we must cling tightly to the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps His promises!*

A key to not swerving off course is to stand firm in and to trust God, that He will help guide and keep us on track.

**The people that care for us could very well be the support God's uses to help us from swerving off course and drifting away.**

*vs 24: Let us consider how we may spur (provoke) one another on...*

Spurs were used as an encouragement and a motivational technique to guide the horse.

We are to encourage and motivate one another (to prod) forward, in our relationship with God.

*vs 24: ...spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

*vs 24 (TPT) ...to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.*

Supportive and authentic relationships motivate each person to serve God by caring and serving others out of an attitude of love.

Intentional community is spurring one another on to do good for the benefit of others.

**God never designed us to live life in isolation but in community.**

Being committed into a church family is where we can be a part of an authentic community.

Small Groups are an ideal setting to experience the power of intentional community.

We have a much better chance to stay on track when life throws us a curve ball when we are in a life-giving circle of friends that care for us.

**Living in isolation is a recipe for swerving off course**

Mutual encouragement is one way how God designed us to grow.

*Hebrews 10:25 (TPT) This is not the time to **pull away and neglect meeting together**, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more*

*frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning (the return of the Lord).*

## **Intentional community is deciding to put down roots.**

We need to be connected into an authentic community for support to withstand the complexities and the pressures that life presents us.

We don't have to go looking for trouble, trouble has a knack of finding us!

***Ecclesiastes 4:12** 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.*

If we don't have our roots deep within a church family and connected tightly, then when trouble comes, we may become vulnerable and drift.

To drift away from those who are there to support us and sadly drift away from intimacy with God.

Genuine loving relationships provide the care and support we all need to stay on course!

***Ephesians 4:15-16 (TLB)*** *Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times - speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly - and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of his body, the Church. <sup>16</sup>Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

## **ACC Value: Authentic Community**

*Community best happens through supporting and accountable relationships.*

### **Will you commit to putting down your spiritual roots into our church family?**

1. Committing to ACC as your church family.
2. Begin to serve in one of our various ministry expressions.
3. Get involved in a Connect Group.