



GOD IS NOT ALL YOU NEED!

- How would you respond to some in our culture who subscribes to the “I’m spiritual but not religious” mindset when choosing not to be part of a church community?

4. COMMUNITY IS MESSY.

- The reason this is true is because community involves people and people are messy.
- What are some examples of this from your own experience?
- **Follow up discussion:** The temptation is to view messy people the way our culture views every other inconvenience: as disposable. **What is one thing YOU can do to change the way you view “messy” people?**

5. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS STATEMENT:

“Community will always be missed when it is built on preferences instead of promises; when it is built on “like” instead of love. Community is based not on compatibility but on commonality: our mutual need

- **Read Romans 15:7.**
- What are some things WE can do in our group to make sure we create an environment where everyone is welcome to “the table” regardless of the messes they bring?

6. REAL COMMUNITY DEMANDS REAL COMMITMENT

- One of our culture’s greatest lies is that you can have intimacy without commitment. But connection without commitment ends in pain, not community. Biblical love is love for the long haul; love as a lifestyle, not a hobby.
- **Read 1 Peter 4:8.**
- What does showing “deep love for each other” look like in practical ways?

- Doing life alone with God is not paradise. The first man lived in a perfect environment, had an exalted status, and enjoyed unhindered intimacy with God, and this was God’s assessment: **It is not good for the man to be alone.** (Genesis 2:18, NIV) God knew that the masterpiece of His creation could survive but could not thrive as a solitary being. **Like it or not, you need others.**

I: We were CREATED for COMMUNITY.

Genesis 1:26

Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.

Matthew 1:21-23

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

II: Community is MESSY.

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you.

III: Real community DEMANDS real COMMITMENT.

1 Peter 4:8 NLT

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

1 John 4:16 CEV

God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us. (1 John 4:16, CEV)

IV: To keep COMMITMENTS we need GOD.

Ephesians 5:1-2 MSG

Watch what God does, and then do it... Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love.

Romans 5:5 NLT

For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.



Truth doesn't take polls. Truth doesn't care how one votes. Truth doesn't change-LIKE IT OR NOT. In this series we will look at how the never-changing gospel can change the way we deal with reality.

For Discussion:

1. **LIKE IT OR NOT: GOD IS NOT ALL YOU NEED!**

- The first man lived in a perfect environment, had an exalted status, and enjoyed unhindered intimacy with God, and this was God's assessment:

"It is not good for the man to be alone." Genesis 2:18

- What are some of the reasons you think God made this assessment?
- How has this been true in your life?

2. **WE WERE CREATED FOR COMMUNITY.**

Genesis 1:26 reminds us that God is eternally relational, **"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness."**

- What is significant about the Godhead existing in community?
- How should that impact your relationship with God and other people?

3. Reflect on this statement: "Jesus' mission was bigger than the salvation of individuals; it was the creation of a new community."

• **Read Matthew 1:21-23.**

- Jesus never invited anyone into solitary discipleship —

FELLOWSHIP DEMANDS FELLOWSHIP. With these thoughts in mind,: