

Find Your People: Cultivating Christlike Relationships

Jessica Pappas & Gabe Drake

I. Session Overview

Relationships Matter. Scripture is robust with direct references and indirect assumptions of our interdependence and investment in community. Even if our brains don't fully understand this importance, we can sense an innate draw to intimacy, connectedness, and vulnerability with one another – because that's how God made us. But after childhood, relationships don't just happen – they take intentionality, humility, and a selfless endurance to really be all they can and were meant to be.

II. Key Points

Relational Formation

- Upbringing // How we were raised impacts our natural tendencies, assumptions, and responses.
- Today // How we are *being* raised impacts our future relationships

Essentials of Community

- Vulnerability (defined as the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally)
- Frequency
- Similarities
- Differences
- Shared Goal(s)

The Goal of Community

- Spur one another on towards love & good deeds
- Learn & practice love (1 Cor 13)
- Comfort & be comforted
- Hold accountable & be held accountable
- Share gifts & resources
- Unity amongst Christ followers
 - As an example to the world
 - To not give the devil a foothold

Remember God as Ultimate

- God is the only one who will never fail
 - Forgive others as we have been forgiven
 - Endure for the sake of Christ
-

III. Scripture

Reference	Verse
Hebrews 10:24-25	“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 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.”
Colossians 3:12-14	“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”
1 Peter 4:7-10	“The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”
Ephesians 4:1-3	“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

IV. Application & Discussion Questions

- What stuck out to you throughout this presentation? What did you sense God saying to you or calling you to?
- Are there opportunities for you to step into increased vulnerability? Who / where / when would be a safe place to take a next step here? What will keep you from doing this? What incredible thing could happen if you take this step anyway?
- Gabe talked about her tendency to over depend on people and Jess her tendency to under depend. Which do you tend towards and what is one step you can take to move towards greater Christ-likeness in relationship?
- When you look through the goals of community, are there people you can identify that you share these common goals with? If not, are there people that you could begin to move towards in order to begin developing these things?
- When you look through the Essentials of Community, is there any one(s) that are easier or more difficult for you and why? What is one or two steps you can take to further strengthen these essentials?

- Do you know and depend on God as ultimate? What are some things you can do to strengthen this most important relationship in your life?
-

V. Session Notes