

# Components of Community

Connect Group Sunday

Bethany Assembly of God

9.10.2023

**Central Proposition: You should be in a community that meets needs, spurs growth, and stirs hearts.**

## Introduction

Today is our Connect Group emphasis Sunday. We want our Connect Groups to help you grow *Upward* in your relationship with the Lord, *Inward* as you realize the purposes God has for your life and the partnership you have in the local body of Christ, and *Outward* as we encourage and partner with one another in the mission of Christ to reach the lost and make disciples. Let's break that down.

### 1. Community that meets needs: you need a place of affection.

One of the great needs we have as humans is fellowship. Fellowship is much more than a social event. Fellowship means that you are a partner in something bigger than yourself.

- You need to know and experience that there is a place and a people to whom you belong and who have affection for you. See Romans 12:10, Galatians 5:13.
- Believers need a place of affection where they can give and receive genuine love in the family of God.

### 2. Community that spurs growth: you need a place of discipleship.

Pastor Mike Burnette from LifePoint Church in Clarksville, TN wrote, "*Community is the biblical context for making disciples, and there is no alternative.*"

- Discipleship, that is growing upward in your relationship with and conformity to Christ, requires community. Community spurs that growth. See Colossians 3:12-13, 16.

### 3. Community that stirs hearts: you need a place of mission.

We have different gifts and different functions, but together we are the body of Christ, and together we are called to accomplish His mission. That mission is to make disciples.

- We express this by saying that our mission is to glorify God by proclaiming the good news about Jesus so that lives are transformed as they are filled with the Holy Spirit, marked by baptism, connected in community, and mature in worship. And we all contribute to this mission...by our attendance, by giving, by our service to one another, and also through our witness.
- That witness can happen through outreach we do together or through our individual outreach to friends, coworkers, and family members. In a Connect Group you can be encouraged to be a witness.
- Connect Groups can also help us avoid drifting off course. See Hebrews 10:24.

## Conclusion

Christians need a place of affection, to give and receive love; you need a place where other people put pressure on you that helps you in your discipleship, and you need a place to stir your heart toward mission. This is more than just a good idea, this is God's plan and it's what Jesus came to establish. See Romans 12:3-5.

We are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. This is what Christ died to accomplish. So, community isn't just something extra, it's who we are in Christ and it's something we should work at intentionally. That's why we have Connect Groups.