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COMMUNITY - BUILT TO BELONG

WE WERE CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIPS.

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹ So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man." ²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. **Genesis 2:18-24 NLT**

- Life works best when people live in right relationship with God and each other.
- "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35

"God wants his family to be known for its love more than anything else. Jesus said our love for each other—not our doctrinal beliefs—is our greatest witness to the world. Love cannot be learned in isolation. You have to be around people—irritating, imperfect, frustrating people." Rick Warren

The Believers Form a Community

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their

property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47 NLT**

- Being part of community is a <u>discipline</u>, and we all need someone that can see into our life and speak into our life.
- This applies to introverts as well.
- Being alone is different than being lonely.
- There are things the Bible tells us to do that we cannot do alone.

Last week we talked about obedience is worship, so what is keeping you from being obedient to the discipline of being committed to community?

- Join the local Church.
- Join a Life Group.
- Join the Dream Team.
- Crucify the flesh and step out of your comfort zone.