



☁ We live in an increasingly individualistic world. **Write down a few ways you have seen that to be true and some effects that has on our world.**

*Evidences of Individualism*

*Effects on our World*

**This individualism isn't isolated to the world around us. Many Christians view their walk with God as a "private" endeavor.** A recent survey asked, "What is your preferred way of learning to follow Jesus?" \_\_\_\_\_% said "on my own."

## GOD SAVES INDIVIDUALS INTO COMMUNITY.

☰ The New Testament assumes that relationships are the primary context in which the Christian life is to be lived.

Savior is used 23 times in NT      Paul refers to the "Lord" 53 times

*"The fruit of the Spirit cannot be worked out in isolation from others." Darrell Bock*

☰ The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible reveals that God designed us for community and then redeems us to a new community.

**Community is a unity with God and others that humans were designed for that comes as a byproduct of bearing "God's \_\_\_\_\_."** This is not simply having interests, backgrounds or life choices in common.

**Community is broken, because of man's sin.** Read **Gen. 3:8-12, 1 John 4:18b.** God's design of love and openness was replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Community is God's work in the gospel.** Gal. 4:4-7 says that God is creating a new community - a family! - through the process of "\_\_\_\_\_."

**Community is our response to the gospel.** If God has made His people a family, they should live like one! **Romans 12:9-13** describes "genuine \_\_\_\_\_," and **Titus 2:11-14** calls us to radical "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_" both toward each other and toward the world around them -- not to earn God's love, but in response His love.

*"Community is not a spiritual luxury or an optional addition to the exercises of private devotion. Such fellowship is a spiritual necessity; for God has made us in such a way that our fellowship with himself is fed by our fellowship with fellow-Christians, and requires to be so fed constantly for its own deepening and enrichment." J. I. Packer, God's Words*

## GOD GROWS CHRISTIANS IN COMMUNITY

*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. - 1 John 1:5-10*

☁ Jesus called \_\_\_\_\_, **not a disciple**--including including Matthew, the traitorous tax collector and Simon, the Violent Zealot. **These relationships exposed who they truly were. (Luke 22:24-25)**

♥ With every exposure of sin we have the encouragement of the persistent work of the Spirit to grow us to be more like Jesus. **Phil. 1:6** says that **when God starts a work in us, He will bring it to "\_\_\_\_\_."**

💡 Read **Eph. 4:15-16.** Christians who obey **the one another commands** together in community will "\_\_\_\_\_."

## GOD IS GLORIFIED THROUGH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have \_\_\_\_\_ for one another. (John 13:35)*

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:5-7)*