

Authentic Christian Community

"There is a prevailing entrepreneurial spirit of our age which has turned community into a commodity. Community impoverished Christians are ripe for this exploitation. Our need for community and our dissatisfaction with the community we are in (or looking over) provides a wide open field for those who are selling 'community.'

Community as commodity is one of the more spectacular growth industries in western religion today. How does it happen that what originates as a creation of the Holy Spirit, so frequently (and so lucratively!) gets packaged as a technique or a product? The formation of community is the intricate, patient, painful work of the Holy Spirit. We cannot buy or make community; we can only offer ourselves to become community. We need to turn away from the managerial skills that are held in such high regard in our culture and return to the actual conditions in which true spiritual communities develop"

(Eugene Peterson)

"In a spiritual community, people reach deep places in each other's hearts that are not often or easily reached. They discover places beneath the awkwardness of wanting to embrace and cry and share opinions. They openly express love and reveal fear, even though they feel so unaccustomed to that level of intimacy.

When members of a spiritual community reach a sacred place of vulnerability and authenticity, something is released. Something good begins to happen. An appetite for holy things is stirred. For just a moment, the longing to know God becomes intense, stronger than all other passions, worth whatever price must be paid for it. Spiritual togetherness, what I call connecting, creates movement: Togetherness in Christ encourages movement toward Christ."

(Larry Crabb)

"We have probably wondered in our many lonesome moments if there is one corner in this competitive, demanding world where it is safe to be released, to expose ourselves to someone else, and to give unconditionally. It might be small and hidden. But if this corner exists, it calls for a search through the complexities of our human relationships in order to find it."

(Henri Nouwen)

"Why is spiritual community so rare? I suspect it has to do with the requirement of brokenness. We would much rather be impressively intact than broken. But only broken people share spiritual community."

(Larry Crabb)

C	<p><i>Colossians 3: 12</i> Commitment, Compassion, Concern, Confession, Celebration, Communion, Communication</p>
O	<p><i>1 John 2:3-6</i> Obedience, Openness, One heart,</p>
M	<p><i>2 Corinthians 3:6</i> Ministry, Meeting together,</p>
M	<p><i>Romans 15: 7</i> Mutual Acceptance, forgiveness, grace etc.</p>
U	<p><i>John 13: 34-35</i> <i>John 17:21-23</i> Unconditional Love,</p>
N	<p><i>1 Thessalonians 5: 11</i> Nurture (Building up), New start,</p>
I	<p><i>Matthew 5:37</i> Integrity, Intimacy,</p>
T	<p><i>Colossians 3: 13</i> Trust, Tolerance, Thankful heart, Teachable Spirit, Truth,</p>
Y	<p><i>Ephesians 5:21</i> Yielding, Yearning,</p>