

COMMUNITY: GOD'S DESIGN FOR GROWTH

THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY

Spiritual disciplines are not ways to improve ourselves, or even to stop sinning. They are ways that we open ourselves to God's power and God's grace.

Ephesians 4.11-16 // Hebrews 3.13

Seven Ways We Minimize Sin (based on "Gospel-Centered Life" by Bob Thune)

Defending: People hesitant to approach, rarely converse about difficult things in life.

Faking: Do you try to keep up appearances and maintain a respectable image? Are you often thinking about what others think of you? Do people know the "real you"?

Hiding: Do you conceal a lot about your life, especially the "bad stuff." Where "faking" is about impressing, hiding is more about shame. Do you think people won't accept or love the "real you"?

Exaggerating: Do you tend to think (and talk) more highly of yourself than you ought?

Blaming: Are you quick to blame others for your sin or circumstances? Do you usually follow up "I'm sorry" with "but."? Pride says "it's not my fault."

Downplaying: Do you downplay your sin as "normal" or "not that bad"?

Comparing: Do you look around and justify some of your weak spots by seeing that others are doing the same or worse than yourself?

He is your friend who pushes you nearer to God.

-Abraham Kuyper

HOW DOES IT CHANGE US?

Our hearts are not private property, but communal property.

Though our faith is personal, it is not private.

-Kyle Strobel

James 5.16 // Hebrews 10.24, 25 // Romans 12.5, 10, 13.8 // Colossians 3.16
Galatians 5.13 // Ephesians 4, 5.19 // 1 Thessalonians 4.18, 5.14

FIGHTING FOR EACH OTHER

Living the life of a disciple and a pilgrim means that we need to have traveling partners, people who walk alongside us. The truth is, community enhances the other means of grace, such as prayer and the Word; community enriches the soil for the spiritual practices in your life.

Philippians 1.27, 28 // 1 Timothy 6.11, 12



NOTES:

Other Suggested Resources:

A 6 minute message on being a Christian loner by John Piper.

www.desirinaaod.org/interviews/advice-for-christian-loners

Daily Devotionals:

Monday: Ephesians 4.11-16

Tuesday: Hebrews 3.13

Wednesday: James 5.16 // Hebrews 10.24, 25 // Romans 12.5, 10, 13.8

Thursday: Colossians 3.16 // Galatians 5.13 // Ephesians 5.19

Friday: 1 Thessalonians 4.18, 5.14

Saturday: Philippians 1.27, 28 // 1 Timothy 6.11, 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COMMUNITY GROUP SIGN UPS, TODAY!

If you're not connected with other growing believers in the church, **join us at the Connection Booth** where you can meet group leaders, ask questions and get plugged in! **Sign Up TODAY!**

PRAY FOR JOBEY & CASEY'S TRIP TO AFRICA

Tomorrow Jan 13th Pastor Jobey and Casey Barnes will be going to **Zambia Africa** to visit Ted Lawler at Breath of Heaven Children's Village. For more specific ways you can **be praying for them** please visit our website:

lifemissionchurch.com/blog/africa2014

INTRO COMMUNITY GROUP, JAN 22ND

Meeting new people in a home you've never been to before can sometimes be intimidating. If you want to be in a group but aren't ready to make the full leap yet, check out our **Intro Community Group** that starts on **January 22nd**. This is a six week group that will meet **Wednesdays @ 7PM** here at the church and will be led by Eric Price. **Let Us Know** you're interested by visiting the **Connection Booth** or filling out a Connection Card!

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Currently, we have our junior high & high school students stay in service with us each week. We're excited to announce we are **launching our Junior High Ministry** (7th & 8th graders) **on SUNDAY February 9th!** Let us know on your **Connection Card** if you have junior highers who plan to come!

KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out www.lifemissionchurch.com and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

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