

Called to Community

I. Beyond the “52”

“The most persuasive argument for the Christian faith is the Christian community.”¹

“When people live in community moved by the gospel and marked by the Spirit, great things happen.”²

We have been hard-wired by God for community. We need community.

II. The Call of Abram, The Call to Community

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”⁴

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. – Genesis 12:1-4

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. – Genesis 13:14-16

“So Abram went, as the LORD had told him...” – Genesis 12:4

1. Community is God’s Covenant with His People

“When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.” – Genesis 15:17

¹ Todd Engstrom, Executive Pastor, Austin Stone Community Church

² Dustin Willis

2. Community is God's Context for His People

"Then the LORD God said, It is not good that the man shall be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."...So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man." – Genesis 2:18, 21-22

"We live in the most connected time in world history, yet as a society we are as isolated as we have ever been."³

"God Himself placed within us this yearning for community- a God-given appetite for honest connection with others."⁴

3. Community is God's Calling for His People

We have been hard-wired by God for community. We need community.

"The most persuasive argument for the Christian faith is the Christian community."⁵

³ Dustin Willis, Life in Community

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⁵ Todd Engstrom, Executive Pastor, Austin Stone Community Church