

Connect Group Sunday
February 3, 2019

Big Is The New Small. We've been dropping hints for several weeks now about the value of Connecting. What would actually happen if those of us who are designed to “Connect” actually “Connected.”

We are “Designed” to Connect. Say “Designed!”

The Bible says that it is “Not Good” for man to be alone. Gen 2:18 (NIV): *“The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'”*

The Bible Also Says that it is “Better” for us to be Connected. Eccle 4:9-12 (NIV): *“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”*

The Bible Says that the Lord “Partners” with the Connected. Matt. 18:20 (NIV): *“For where two or three gather in My name, there am I together in unity!”*

The Bible, in Fact, Says that it is “Good and Pleasant” for us to Connect. Ps 133:1 (NIV): *“How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!”*

The church was instituted by Christ to facilitate authentic connecting. The church is supposed to be a place where we connect with God and Others. Jesus demonstrated

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community in His relationship with 12 disciples. This connect group literally changed the world. **We are here today because twelve men made a deep connection with Christ and a profound connection with each other.**

Please know that it is God's will for us to connect.

We have proven this by the word of God. If it is God's will for us to connect then we also understand that Satan's objective is to keep us disconnected. Satan wants us isolated. We have a saying: **“Isolation Is A Violation In The Kingdom of God.”**

The banana that gets separated from the bunch gets peeled and eaten. Even our flesh has a hard time connecting.

Acts 2:46 (NIV): *“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”*

We Need to Focus On The Smaller As We Get Bigger

None of us can successfully make a personal connection with hundreds or thousands of people at a time. It is impossible. If people don't connect, they don't stay. Not just connecting to what we do but who we are!

We can have hundreds of acquaintances or thousands of acquaintances. Acquainting ourselves with someone is Not the same as connecting to someone. Most people

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would rather have acquaintances instead of 2 people that they could connect with.

Most of us would probably rather just have a bunch of people that **we know casually.**

God has called us to go deeper than that. He has called us to connect.

As We Focus On The Smaller Our Impact Gets Bigger

Focusing on the Bigger Will Only Make You Smaller. Focusing on the Smaller makes your impact bigger. I am not saying that you sacrifice the bigger for the smaller. We are called to magnify the Lord. We are not supposed to celebrate “Who We Are,” we are supposed to celebrate “Who He Is.” *He Must Become Greater & We Must Become Less,* **John 3:30 (NIV).**

Our Goal Isn't To Make Attenders—Our Goal Is To Make Disciples. Discipleship Doesn't Happen In Rows But In Circles.

Connect Groups Are Called To Make An Impact. Going to Church Doesn't Make You A Christian.

We Must Be Careful That Church Doesn't Become A Source Of Entertainment.

The Church isn't meant to be a source of Entertainment but a Source of Empowerment. Our Connect Group Leaders Have Been Empowered to Facilitate Church.

Church Isn't Something We Go To, It's Something We Grow To. We don't come to church, we come because we Are the Church. Church Can Happen Anywhere includ-

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Starbucks, Under a Bridge, In Homes—On The Streets!!! You don't need a big building to have Church.

We started Small but now we are Big

Church Can Happen In These Homes, that's part of one of our Network Churches—Launch Strategy. They had such a strong connection in a certain area and they would drop a church building there.

Some Practical Opportunities For Connect Groups

They open doors of ministry.

They empower people to serve.

They create a network of care and accountability.

They provide a great place for Q & A.

They give you the opportunity to just be you.

They give you a great sense of belonging and purpose.

Close and Sign Up

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