

ROOTED

A Flourishing Christian Life

Rooted - Connect With Others

Key idea:

It is not good for man to be alone. We were created to be in connection with others, to build a Christ-centered community led by the Holy Spirit.

Key text:

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of

you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

Key points:

1. Our need for community is not a design flaw, but a divine feature created by God.
2. The church, though diverse, is united by the Holy Spirit as one body of Christ.
3. Every member of the body has a unique purpose and value, regardless of their role.
4. True biblical community involves celebrating others' successes and supporting them in struggles.

Discussion Questions:

1. The teaching mentioned Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for man to be alone." How does this verse apply to our lives today, regardless of our marital status?
2. How does the concept of God creating us for community challenge our modern notions of individualism and self-reliance?
3. How does understanding our need for connection as a 'divine feature' rather than a 'design flaw' change our approach to relationships and community?
4. Warren used the analogy of Legos to describe the church. How does this analogy help you understand the importance of diversity and unity in the body of Christ?
5. In what ways might our diversity within the church body reflect God's creativity, and how can we better appreciate and utilize our differences?
6. Have you ever felt like the "nose hair" of the body of Christ? Share a time when you felt undervalued in a community setting. How did you overcome that feeling?
7. The teaching emphasized that different doesn't mean better when it comes to roles in the church. How can we cultivate an attitude of humility and equality within our church community?
8. Warren shared personal experiences of feeling encouraged and supported by church members. Can you share a similar experience? How did it impact your faith and sense of belonging?

9. How does understanding the Trinity (God as eternal divine community) influence your view of human relationships and community?
10. How might reciting creeds like the Apostles' Creed connect us not just to each other, but to the broader historical and global church?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, reach out to someone in the church who is different from you (in age, background, or worship style) and invite them for coffee or a meal.
2. Reflect on your unique gifts and how you can use them to serve the church community. If you're unsure, consider talking to a church leader for guidance.
3. Practice empathy by intentionally celebrating someone's success or sitting with someone who is struggling.
4. Consider joining or leading a connect group to deepen your involvement in the church community.
5. Memorize the Apostles' Creed as a reminder of the core beliefs that unite us with Christians across time and cultures.