

An Invitation to Change and Grow

Hebrews 10:23-25

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brian Fannin / Sept. 11, 2022

Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Big Rock (1 of 8): Community Groups

Community Groups are the very heartbeat of our church. The Bible teaches that people change and grow best at close range with other believers, who can speak into their life, and by using their gifts to speak into someone else’s life. Community Groups are not just some fad we’ll get over; they are the ministry structure that we think best enables us to do what God has called us to do.

“I love preaching and teaching... but I’m going to make a bold statement here today. I’m going to try to convince you that preaching and teaching are NOT enough.”

~ Brad Bigney

Two reasons you need a Community Group:

1. You get an opportunity to gain significant Christian relationships.

Significant Christian relationships are formed when you place yourself where you can make connections with others, and intentionally learn to be transparent. This will simply never happen by you watching church at home, or looking at the back of people’s heads on a Sunday, but rather by getting together in a small group, up close...and caring for others.

2. You get an opportunity to give and receive “one anothering.”

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Romans 12:16 “Live in **harmony with one another...**”

2 Corinthians 13:11 “Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, **comfort one another, agree with one another...**”

Galatians 5:13-14 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve one another**. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Galatians 6:2 “**Bear one another’s burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Ephesians 5:21 “**Submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.”

Colossians 3:9 “**Do not lie to one another**, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “...**encourage one another** and **build one another up**, just as you are doing.”

James 5:16 “Therefore, **confess your sins to one another** and pray for one another...”

“It is interesting to note that the emphasis here is not on what a believer gets from the assembly, but rather on what he can contribute to the assembly.”

~ Warren Wiersbe, *“Be” NT Commentary Series*

Grace Fellowship holds as a core value, Community Group. We are a church of community groups and the why is captured in this passage in Hebrews:

- A. Community helps us hold our confession without wavering.
- B. Community helps us stir one another up to love and good works.
- C. Community trumps assembly, for up close and personal helps us encourage one another.