

# Growing Together To Be More Like Christ

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## **Rom. 12:1-8**

Big Idea: You were made for fellowship, and we believe actively doing life together through small groups is the best discipleship vehicle we know to help you fulfill that design!

## **Paul on the Christian Life**

1. We're called to be living sacrifices that are being transformed from the inside out! Rom. 12:1-3
2. We belong to each other! Rom. 12:3-5
3. Small Groups are the best vehicle we know for our transformation and design!
4. Three reasons to focus on the vehicle of small groups, and why we want you in one:
  - Design!
  - Care!
  - Grace!

“We think that living the Christian life calls for small groups. And we think that shepherding the church calls for small groups. The elders are committed to overseeing the small group leaders, and the small group leaders are committed to helping a small flock - a small group - care for each other. We believe in the New Testament teaching about the eldership and the priesthood of all believers. All Christians are ministers, but not all are overseers. The ministry of the church does not belong to the elders; it belongs to the body... Overseers exist to equip and to protect and to guide; but all of this is done to liberate and empower (Ephesians 4:12) the priesthood of the believers” (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; 5:9) (Quote from John Piper sermon, Sept. 20, 1998)

## **Here's the Hope**

- You're in...there's a place for you in the circle!
- Getting into a small group will have a transforming effect on your life!
- In growing together, we experience the peace and the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3b)!

## **Assignment for Life**

1. If you're not in a group yet, make every effort to join a small group by the end of September.
2. If you're in a group, own it! It's your group...find ways to engage further, and make every effort to be consistent in your participation.
3. Already owning your group? Continue to support your group leaders, and draw new people into your group.
4. Pray for God to make this next year of ministry fruitful in the life of our church!