

Making the Connection

September 8, 2019 Series - *What We Believe*
Pastor Chuck Pruett New Life Church

Gen 2:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone...

God' word for "connecting with others' is called FELLOWSHIP.

- Church is not a place to attend but a group to be connected to.

What does Fellowship look like?

1. The construction of a BUILDING.

Ephesians 2:20-22 (ESV) ²⁰ [Christians are] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

In a building all the connected parts support and strengthen each other.

2. Being a part OF A BODY.

Rom 12:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

This tells us...

1. We're all different.
2. We all have different roles to play - different work to do.
3. We are all needed to make the body complete.
4. We all belong to each other.
5. We all need to be connected to each other.

Eph 4:25b (NIV) ²⁵ ...for we are all members of one body.

MESSAGE BIBLE: "In Christ's Body we're all connected to each other..."

In a body all the parts grow together.

Col 2:18-19 (NIV) ¹⁸ Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹ They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

3. Being a **SHEEP IN A FLOCK**

Ps 100:3 (ESV) ³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Jn 10:11-15 (ESV) ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

In a flock the sheep are protected and cared for.

1 Pet 5:2 (NIV) ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;

4. Being a **MEMBER OF A FAMILY.**

Rom 8:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." Rom. 12:10 (NIV)

In a family the members love each other.

How do I get connected?

Jn 1:12 (ESV) ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

1 Jn 4:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.