

Creation – Created for Community

- Hint at a Heavenly Community – Genesis 1:26 – *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”*
- God makes man – Genesis 2:7 – *“then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”*
- Not Good for man to be alone: Genesis 2:18-23 – *“Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ...²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”*
- Growing the Community - Genesis 1:28 – *“And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it”*

Fall – Broken Community

- Genesis 3:11-12 – *“He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”*
- Genesis 3:16 – *“¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”*
- Genesis 3:23-24 – *“the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”*
- Genesis 4:23-24 – *“²³ Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. ²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.”*

Restoration - Abraham's Community

- God's Promise of Salvation is going to be realized through a Community
 - Genesis 12:1-3 – *“Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*
 - Genesis 17:6-7 – *“I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”*
- Israel: Community of God meant to Reflect God's Character
 - Leviticus 11:45 – *“For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.”*
 - Exodus 19:5 – *“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”*
 - Leviticus 19:18 – *“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”*
- Judgement on the Community - Ezekiel 12:15 – *“So they will know that I am the Lord when I scatter them among the nations and spread them among the countries.”*

- Promise of Redemption for true Community of God
 - Isaiah 66:18 - *“For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.*
 - Jeremiah 3:17 - *“At that time they will call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of the Lord,’ and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the Lord; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.”*

Jesus Redeeming a Community

- John 1:1-3 - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”*
- John 17:24 - *“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”*
- Eph 2:13 - *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ 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.”*

The Church – The Community of Jesus Christ

- We are saved into Jesus’ Community:
 - 1 John 1:3 - *“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 - *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*
 - “There are Christians who say, “I love God but I hate the church.” But they are members all the same, whether they like it or not, whether they acknowledge it or not. For God never makes private, secret salvation deals with people. His relationships with us are personal, true; intimate, yes; but private, no...No Christian is an only child.” - Eugene Peterson
- Love of Community:
 - John 13:34 - *“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.”*
 - *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”* - 1 Thessalonians 3:12
 - *“Keep on loving each other as brothers.”* - Hebrews 13:1
 - Ephesians 4:32 - *“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*
 - Colossians 3:13 - *“bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”*
- Humility of Community:

- Philippians 2:3-8 – *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*
- Service of Community:
 - John 13:14 - *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.*
 - Galatians 6:2 - *Bear each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*
 - Galatians 5:13 - *serve one another in love*
 - 1 Peter 4:9 - *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling*
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9 - *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*
- Growth of Community:
 - Ephesians 4:11-16 – *“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*
 - 1 John 3:2 – *“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”*
 - Romans 8:29 – *“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 – *“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.”*
 - Colossians 3:16 – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”*
 - Romans 15:14 - *“I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.”*
- Holiness of Community:
 - Luke 17:3 - *Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.*
- Mission of Community:
 - Matthew 28:18-20 – *“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
 - John 13:35 – *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:8 – *“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”*

Eternal Community of God

- Revelation 7:9-10 – *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*
- Revelation 21:3-4 – *“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

Resources:

- *The Compelling Community*, By Jamie Dunlop and Mark Dever
- *The Loveliest Place*, By Dustin Bengtson
- *Spurgeon, The Pastor*, by Geoffrey Chang
- *The Church*, by Mark Dever
- *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*, by Mark Dever