

BETTER TOGETHER

At Grace Community Church, we celebrate that we are better together. Simply put, we were made for relationships. It is hardwired into our genetic coding.

As we look at the Trinity, we find God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead is distinct but unified in mind and purpose. When God made humanity, we were made in God's image... bearing His likeness. When God formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed His Spirit into Adam's body, God demonstrated the personal nature of His love and how He desires relationship with humanity. God could have spoken humanity into existence, but He chose not to. God made contact and interacted with our creation in a very personal and intentional way. That says something.

Early in the story, we see that it was not good that Adam was alone, no matter how much satisfaction he had in naming and caring for the animals. While God is self-sufficient in His relationship as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, people are not. We are made by God with a need and hunger for relationship.

In creating Eve, God conducted the very first surgery in human history. As Eve came from the rib of Adam, we see that God provided a helpmate for Adam that would serve at his side. Once Adam saw Eve, he was overcome with emotion. God provided a companion and partner in life. In creating humanity in male and female form, God revealed His beauty and complexity through their complementary nature. As we look at Adam and Eve, we see God's glory. While God concluded each day with the words, "It is good." On the sixth day of creation, God made a distinction. In looking at the pinnacle of His creative work, God said, "It is very good!"

The story of Adam and Eve is a story of relationship. As people, it is not good to be alone. We are better together! God made us to relate with others and to serve at their side in the context of community. The recorded account of Adam and Eve is a tangible reminder that relationships are essential for survival. Just as the body needs food and water to sustain physical health, we need relationships to sustain emotional and spiritual health. It is no surprise that the enemy seeks to destroy the relationship between God and people. What Satan started in the garden with the serpent, He continues until the day of judgement. While Adam and Eve made a mess of a perfect relationship in Genesis 3, God reconciled the hostility and division through the perfect work of the Son, Jesus Christ. While the first marriage between Adam and Eve was full of pain, the second marriage between Jesus and His church gave us a perfect union. It's because of our relationship with Jesus that we find total fulfillment.

Through the work of the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Father ushered us into a relationship in a way that Adam never experienced. As followers of Jesus, we experience the indwelling presence of God and fellowship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this restored relationship, we experience something we have struggled with since creation – being at peace with God and each other in the context of community.

As we spend some time in prayer today, I want to encourage you to...

- 1) Pray for your intimacy with God. Give God thanks for the work of the cross and what Christ achieved on your behalf. Ask God to reveal anything that stands in the way of that relationship.
- 2) Pray for your intimacy with other believers. Ask God to reveal any brokenness or issues that stand between you and others. Allow the goodness of the Gospel to give you the power to forgive and walk in freedom.
- 3) Pray for your own intimacy. This is often overlooked. You need to be willing to forgive yourself and walk in new patterns. Pray that your mind would be renewed in Christ as you live your life in light of the Gospel.

As you close your time of prayer, please pray for the church...

- 1) Pray that people would seek genuine relationships and that people would be grow in faith and love by showing and sharing the Gospel in practical ways.
- 2) Pray that the followers of Jesus at Grace would be courageous and would form community for the sake of reaching others. Pray for the staff as they align people for the launch of our groups this fall.
- 3) Pray for people who are new to our church over the last year. Pray that the coming months would provide them ample opportunity to connect with others and that no one would feel alone.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bryan