

People have a universal need to belong, which the Bible mentions often, such as in Genesis 2:28 (NIV) that says, "It is not good for man to be alone." In this week's sermon entitled "Living Expectantly," Part 2 of the 5-part series "Transformations," Pastor Sharon talks about what it means to be "spiritually connected." Becoming spiritually connected is more than just attending a weekend church service. Rather, it is true fellowship resulting from a soul to soul connection.

When you are spiritually connected, you become part of a collective structure. The Bible says, "You believers are like a building that God owns. Jesus is the most important stone in the building and the whole building is joined together in Christ. You are being built into a place where God lives through the Spirit" Eph 2:20-22 (ICB). Each part of the structure supports the others; believers support each other in much the same way. If a piece of pipe was removed from the building sprinkler system, that piece would be of little use. But when all the parts are connected into the system, each part supports the others and the system functions properly.

Every part of the body of Christ is unique in its function, which is like being part of a physical body. If a body consisted only of a digestive system, it would not be able to perform all the functions of the larger body. But when each part is joined with the rest of the body, the body as a whole benefits. These parts work together and grow together. Just as a leg that was removed from the body would not grow, you must be connected with the body of Christ in order to grow. The Bible says, "So we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others" Rom 12:5 (LB).

Being connected is also like being a sheep in a flock. When you are part of the body of Christ, you are protected and cared for just like sheep in a flock. Within VCC, there are over 150 lay pastors who are able to come alongside others and help in times of need. 1 Peter 5:2 (ICB) says, "Take care of God's flock, His people, that you are responsible for. Watch over them because you want to, not because you are forced to do it." Whether you have trials in the work force, in your marriage, with your health, or emotionally, there are people who are willing and able to help.

You are also part of a church family where the members love each other. Romans 12:1 (NCV) says, "Love each other like brothers and sisters." There will be times, as in any family, when members do not agree or they irritate one another. During these times, you can always point back to the command from God to love one another as a member of a family. The Bible says, "I want you to know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church." 1 Tim 3:15 (GWT).

If you are not already spiritually connected, the good news is that there is a process to help you get connected to this church family. You have already taken the first step by attending this service or reading this summary. Next, visit the Welcome Room located in the church lobby. While in the Welcome Room, you will meet some of our lay pastors who will help you get started in some of our Bridge classes. These classes provide an overview of VCC and some Christian fundamentals, and help you transition to a home small group that best fits with your schedule and needs. Jesus said, "...but I came to give life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10 (NCV), and you can experience this fullness when you become connected. Are you willing to take the first step toward spiritual connection?