

List the different communities to which you belong. Which ones do you feel are the healthiest? Why?

Are you refreshed by time alone or by time with others?

Read Proverbs 18:1. According to this verse, what cause a man to isolate himself? Why would someone fly into a rage when someone he is in a community with speaks to him with sound judgment? Have you ever experienced this? Have you ever been “that guy?”

How does our culture encourage us to live independently and express our individualism?

**The distinguishing marks of an Uncommon Community.**

1. **Interdependence vs. Independence: I was not designed to function effectively in isolation. (v.12-14)**

What are the risks of intentionally pursuing community? What fears do you have of being in community? What are the benefits?

2. **Responsibility vs. Irresponsibility: I have a God-given desire to belong to something bigger than myself. (v. 15-16)**

What is the evidence in our world that we are wired for relationships?

3. **Diversity vs. Conformity. I am one of many different parts God is using to build a strong body. (v. 17-20)**

God’s creativity is evident in the differences we see in our personalities and temperaments. While God is conforming us to the image of his son (Romans 8:29), we have distinct perspectives and tastes. Do you have difficulty working together with those who are different than you? How does it show itself?

4. **Humility vs. Superiority: I am not more or less important than any other member of Christ’s body. (v. 21-24)**

Have you ever felt inferior to others in your community? Have you ever felt superior? What

5. **Unity vs. Individuality: I will prevent division by placing you before me. (v. 25)**

What causes division in a community? What can you do to prevent it?

6. **Sympathy vs. Apathy: I never have to experience pain or pleasure in isolation. (v. 26-27)**

Describe the pain or pleasure of someone in your community that you feel together with them. What are you doing to share their burden or joy?

**Additional Scripture**

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Hebrews 10:25
- 1Corinthians 1:10