

40 Days of Community Kickoff

January 28, 2007

BETTER TOGETHER: What On Earth Are We Here For?

Pastor Rick Warren

"Together you are the Body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NCV)

"Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others." Romans 12:5b (NLT)

Why we need each other to fulfill God's purposes:

1. We Fellowship better _____ together

"All the believers continued together in close fellowship..." Acts 2:44a (TEV)

"You must learn to be considerate of one another; cultivating a life in common." 1 Corinthians 1:10b (Message)

4 levels of fellowship:

• Socializing _____ together
"The Holy Spirit doesn't want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them." 2 Timothy 1:7 (LB)

• Studying _____ together
"Every day they studied the Scriptures..." Acts 7:11 (TEV)

• Serving _____ together
"We work together as partners who belong to God." 1 Corinthians 3:9a (NLT)

• Suffering _____ together

"I want to know Christ...and the fellowship of His suffering." Philippians 3:10 (KJV)

"Let love be your highest goal." 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)

2. We Worship better _____ together

"You have six days to do your work, but the seventh day of each week is holy because it belongs to me. No matter where you live, you must rest and come together for worship." Leviticus 23:3 (CEV)

Why does God want us to worship together?

• It increases our joy _____
"We celebrate as we worship you." Psalm 68:4b (CEV)

"We enjoyed being together when we went with others to your house, our God." Psalm 55:14 (CEV)

• It enlarges our perspective _____
"I tried to think through this problem, but it was too difficult for me until I went into your Temple. Then I understood." Psalm 73:16-17 (TEV)

• It guarantees God's presence _____
"Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you." Matthew 18:20 (CEV)

• It helps others believe _____
"God put a new song in my mouth, a praise to our God. Many people will see this and worship him. Then they will trust the Lord." Ps 40:3 (NCV)

3. We Grow better _____ together

"Under Christ's direction, the whole Body is fitted together and each part helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 (LB)

How do we grow together?

- By **accepting** each other
"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you."
Romans 15:7 (NIV)
 - By **affirming** each other
"Encourage one another and build each other up."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)
 - By **advising** each other
"Let the words of Christ live in your hearts and make you wise .Use his words to teach and counsel each other."
Colossians 3:16 (NLT)
- "Take your turn, with no one person taking over. That way each one gets a chance to say something special from God, and you all learn from each other."
1 Corinthians 14:30-31 (Message)

This can only happen in a **small group**

4. We **serve better** together
- "...Do you have fellowship together in the Spirit? Then make me happy...by working together with one heart and purpose."
Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT)

How can we serve each other?

- By using our **talents**
"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others."
1 Peter 4:10 (NCV)
- By offering our **help**
"Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2 (TEV)

"When you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible."
3 John 1:5 (Message)

- By sharing our **resources**
"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."
Rom. 12:13 (NIV)
- "Right now you have plenty and can help others. Then at some other time they can share with you when you need it. In this way, everyone's needs will be met."
2 Corinthians 8:14 (NLT)

5. We **reach out better** together
- "I know that you are working together and struggling side by side to get others to believe the Good News."
Philippians 1:27 (CEV)

How can we reach our community for Christ together?

- By using our group to **bring** people to Jesus
"Four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat to Jesus."
Mark 2:3 (NLT)
 - By **giving** to our church's outreach
"We must support believers who go on trips like this so that we can work together with them in spreading the truth."
3 John 1:8 (GW)
 - By **praying** for our city
"Pray that the Master's Word will simply take off and race through the county to a groundswell of response."
2 Thessalonians 3:1 (Message)
- "This is God's purpose: when the time is ripe he will gather us all together from wherever we are—in heaven or on earth—to be with him in Christ forever."
Ephesians 1:10 (LB)