

# FUTURE CHURCH



A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE  
CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

## **A Community of Tight-Knit, Loving Relationships in a Culture of Individualism**

Romans 12:1-10

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A community of tight-knit, loving relationships in a culture of individualism through the practice of community.

### **Romans 12: 1-10**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in

accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others...Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

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Radical Individualism

“We in America have been socialized to believe that our own dreams, goals, and personal fulfillment ought to take precedence over the well-being of any group to which we belong. The immediate needs of the individual are more important than the long-term health of the group.”

- Joseph Hellerman, *When the Church was a Family*

“When I’m at Korean BBQ and I literally take all the brisket but know it’s wrong and unchristian.”

“I start viewing people as social capital or relational capital. We exploit community and people as transactions and we want highly accessible community, but only when it is convenient to me.”

“What I do for a career, and what I want out of life, and what my life goals are revolve around me.”

“Dating in isolation or secret.”

What is planted as individualism gets harvested as loneliness.

## **Romans 12:4-5**

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

How do we cultivate our tight-knit, loving relationships?

1. Our Posture

## **Romans 12:3**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

## **Romans 12:9-10**

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2. Listen hard, speak softly

3. Share openly & risk vulnerability

4. Root yourselves to stay

Baseline: Be a consistent part of a community group and begin to build relationships with people in our church, your workplace, and with your neighbors.

Reach: Set up a standing call or meet up with your closest friends. (Like a weekly phone call or monthly coffee.) Tell each other your life stories and make

it a focus on sharing deeply the things you're tempted to keep hidden, supporting one another practically, and encouraging one another's relationship with Jesus.