

REAL KINGDOM *Living*

PART FOUR | COMMUNITY

“Hesed”



ARISE, SHINE
YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

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FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. *The Word*

2. *Prayer*

3. *Community*

4. *Serving*

COMMUNITY:

Why?

What?

How?



community

Why?

1. COMMUNITY IS OUR DEFAULT SETTING

We are created in the image of a Tri-une Community

community

Why?

“26 Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over [a]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;”

Genesis 1:26

community

Why?

2. IT IS BIBLICAL

Godly community was made to **keep us from sin** as well as provide **safety** and **belonging**.

“Week in, week out, life-on-life, non-negotiable Christian community covers a thousand threats” David Mathis

“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,** but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24–25

community

What?

COMMUNITY:

a unified body of individuals

- people with common / shared interests living in a particular area
- a group of people with a common characteristic / interest living together within a larger society

community



What?

BIBLICAL COMMUNITY:

a family

a body

community

What?

1. IT IS FAMILY

“12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John 1:12-13

“13 They were born into God's family by God.”

John 1:13a WE

community

What?

“Love one another with brotherly affection (as members of one family), giving precedence AND showing honour to one another” (AMPC)

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” (NLT)

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” (NIV)

“Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honouring one another” (CSB)

Romans 12:10

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What?

2. WE ARE PART OF A BODY

“12 A person has only one body, and the body has many parts. It is the same with Christ.

13 The one Spirit baptized us all to make one body. It made no difference whether we were Jews or Greeks, whether we were slaves or free men. We were all given to drink of one Spirit.

14 I say again, the body is not all one part, but has many parts.

15 Perhaps the foot says, 'I am not the hand, so I do not belong to the body.' But it is still a part of the body.

community

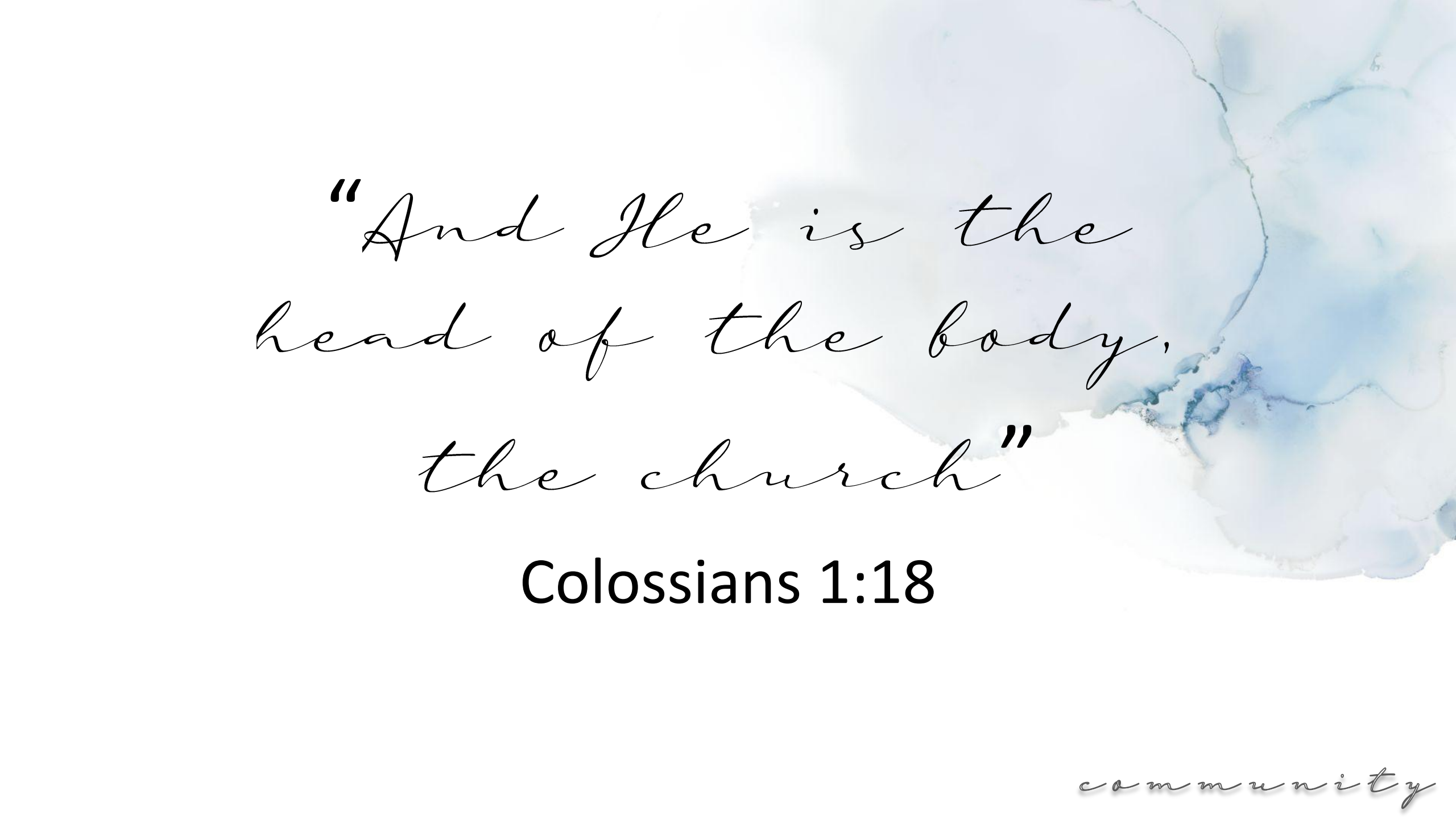
16 Perhaps the ear says, 'I am not the eye, so I do not belong to the body.' But it is still a part of the body.

17 If all of the body were an eye, how could we hear? If all the body were an ear, how could we smell? 18 The way it is now, God has put each part in the body in the place he wanted it. 19 If they were all one part, how could it be a body? 20 The way it is now, there are many parts, but it is one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you.' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I do not need you.' 22 No, that is not so. Some parts of the body are not as strong as others. Yet we could not live without them.

23 And we look after some parts of our body more than others because they need it. The parts of our body that are not so fine in one way are made more fine in other ways. But the parts which are fine already do not need to be made fine. God made the body and has given more care to the parts that need it. 24 He did this so that the body would not be divided into groups, but all the parts would help each other. 26 If one part has trouble, then all the other parts are troubled too. If one part is praised, then all the other parts are glad with it. 25 Now, all of you together are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 26 **God has given each person their right place in the church.**”

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

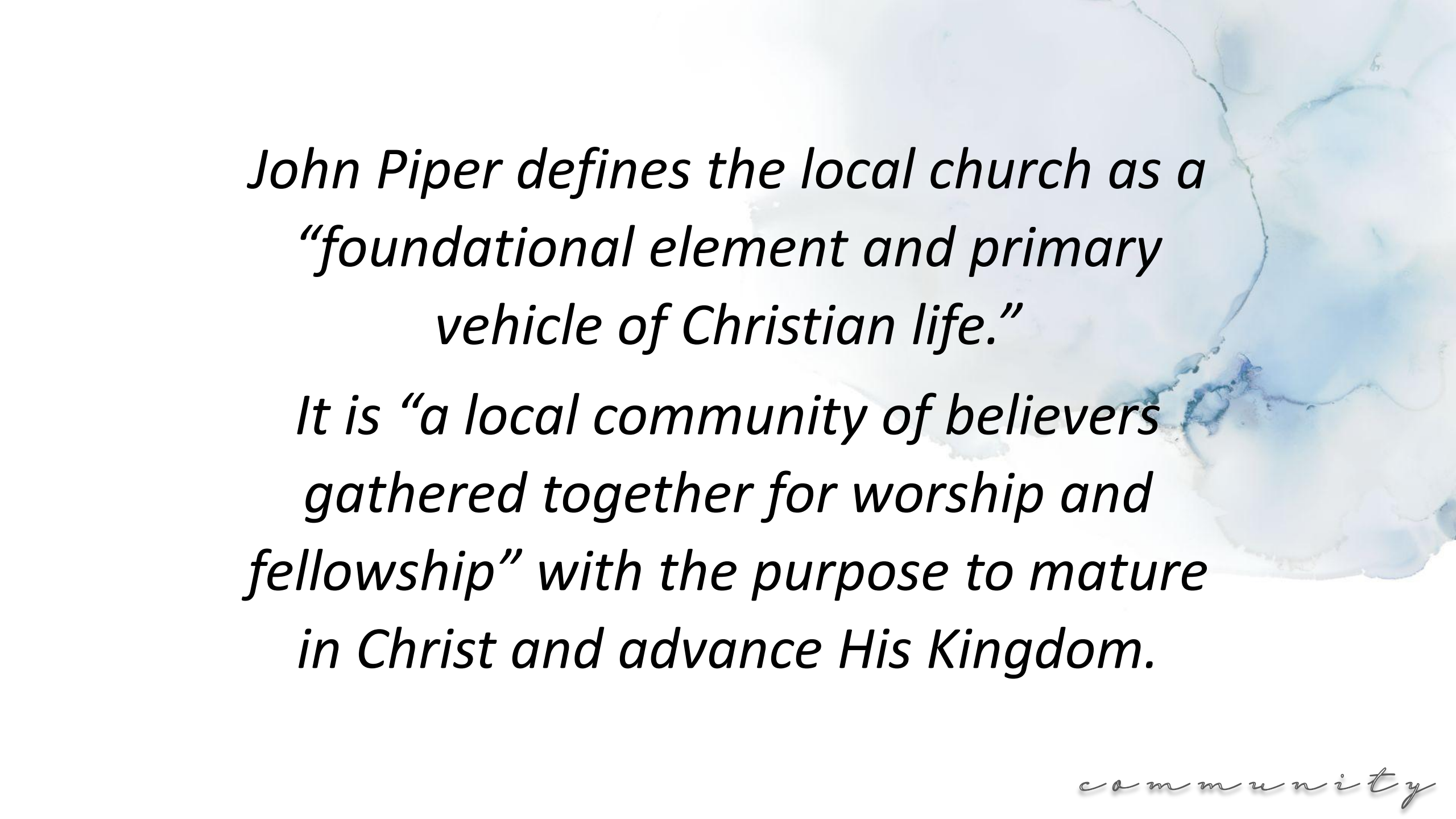
community



*“And He is the
head of the body,
the church”*

Colossians 1:18

community



*John Piper defines the local church as a
“foundational element and primary
vehicle of Christian life.”*

*It is “a local community of believers
gathered together for worship and
fellowship” with the purpose to mature
in Christ and advance His Kingdom.*

community

What?

FAMILY & BODY

- Belonging & Identity
- Attachment (gehegdheid)
- Closeness / Intimacy
- Interdependency
- Equal value & importance
- Order or structure
- You can't choose



community

How?



HESED :

kindness or love between God's people

"loving-kindness", "kindness" "steadfast love"

"mercy", "grace", "loyalty", or "love"

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How?

INGREDIENTS OF A HESED COMMUNITY:

1. LOVE
2. HUMILITY
3. UNITY
4. KINDNESS
5. HONOUR
6. GRACE & MERCY
7. TRUTH IN LOVE

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How?

1. LOVE

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”

John 13:34-35

“And above all things have fervent love for one another,”

1 Peter 4:8a

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How?

Love is patient, kind, not envious or boastful, not arrogant or rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, rejoices with the truth, protects, trusts, hopes, endures.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (summarized)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, **bearing with one another in love.**

Ephesians 4:1-2

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How?

2. HUMILITY

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

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How?

3. UNITY

“3 **Make every effort** to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is **one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Ephesians 4:3-4

UNITY – henotēs

condition of harmony or oneness only experienced in the Body of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit

community

How?

4. KINDNESS

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control, perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness BROTHERLY KINDNESS, and to brotherly kindness, love.”

2 Peter 1:5-7

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How?

5. HONOUR *esteem, value, great respect*

“Honour **all** people” 1 Peter 2:20

“Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in **honouring one another**” Romans 12:10 CSB

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better** than himself.

Phillipians 2:3

“...in humility **value others above** yourselves” Phillipians 2:3

community

How?

6. GRACE & MERCY

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, **as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**”

1 Peter 4:8

“12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**” James 2:12-13

community

How?

7. TRUTH IN LOVE

“15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work”

Ephesians 4:15-16

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **THAT IT MAY IMPART GRACE TO THE HEARERS.**”

Ephesians 4:29

community



Prayer

community