

CORE STRENGTH

WE DO LIFE TOGETHER - Relationships make us stronger

Jan 15th, 2017

I. **Gen 2:15-25**

- A. **Culture** - The set of shared knowledge, beliefs, behaviors, attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterize an organization.

II. **Crossroads Core Values:**

- **We Want to Be With Him** - His Presence Means Everything
- **We Do Life Together** - Relationships make us stronger

III. **Build Relationships Intentionally through 3 areas:**

- A. **Church services** - Gatherings to attend

- B. **Dream Team** - Gatherings to serve

- C. **Connect Groups** - Gatherings to belong

1. **Connect Group Vision:**

- a) Offer an environment where people have the opportunity to pursue healthy relationships and experience spiritual growth through care and accountability.
- b) **Acts 20:20** 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,

2. **2 types of Connect groups:**

a) **Semester groups**

- (1) Relational around a topic - Meet for 12-13 weeks in the fall and spring semesters.
- (2) Specific day and time to meet, new group members may be added

b) **Community groups**

- (1) Longer Term Relationally - Commit to one another for a year
- (2) Topic and meeting times may change; will close after few weeks

IV. **Gen 2:15-25 - Relationships are important to God!**

- A. **Gen 1:31** "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."

B. **V18 - Not good?**

1. **Alone** - *bad* — separated, apart from, by itself; Piece of something, single unit

- a) African proverb that says, "*If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go with others!*"

C. **V25 - Key to building a connecting culture - Vulnerable and Authentic**

1. **Kingdom Culture** - Naked but not ashamed
2. **Sin Culture** - Vulnerability is the core of shame, fear and our struggle for worthiness
3. **Kingdom Culture** - Vulnerability is the birthplace of joy, love, creativity, belonging, and change.
4. **Kingdom Vulnerability** - Openness and honesty, willingness to recognize and accept the truth.

V. **Gen 3:10** - Sin has distorted vulnerability

- A. **Worldly Vulnerability** - *Webster* - capable of easily being physically or emotionally wounded; open to attack or damage: assailable
- B. **Shame & Fear Says Two things:**
 1. **You are Never Good Enough** - Guilt and Condemnation
 2. **Who Do You Think You Are?** - False humility - Loss of identity
 - a) **Gal 4:7** 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ

VI. **Vertical and Horizontal relational connections**

- A. **Greatest Commandment** - **Matt 22:37-40** 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
- B. **James 5:16** 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed...
- C. **Eph 4:16** 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together **by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share, causes growth of the body** for the edifying of itself in love. *NKJV*
 1. We all have both:
 - a) **Mask** - Things we know about ourselves that others don't know
 - b) **Blindspots** - Things you see about me that I cannot see