



Truth doesn't take polls. Truth doesn't care how one votes. Truth doesn't change—like it or not. In this series we will look at how the never-changing gospel can change the way we deal with reality.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Like it or not, **God is not** all you need. The first man lived in a perfect environment, had an exalted status, and enjoyed unhindered intimacy with God, and this was God's assessment: **"It is not good for the man to be alone."** **Genesis 2:18** What are some of the reasons you think God made this assessment? How has this been true in your life?

**2 WE WERE CREATED for community.** **Genesis 1:26** reminds us that God is eternally relational, **"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness."** What is significant about the Godhead existing in community? How should that impact your relationship with God and other people?

**3** Rick reminded us that **"Jesus' mission was bigger than the salvation of individuals; it was the creation of a new community."** **Read Matthew 1:21-23.** Jesus never invited anyone into solitary discipleship — **followship** demands **fellowship**. With these thoughts in mind, how would you respond to some in our culture who subscribe to the **"I'm spiritual but not religious"** mindset when choosing not to be part of a church community?

**4 COMMUNITY... is messy.** The reason this is true is because community involves people and people are messy. What are some examples of this from your own experience? Follow up discussion: The temptation is to view messy people the way our culture views every other inconvenience: as disposable. What is one thing you can do to change the way you view "messy" people?

**5** Rick went on to remind us that, **"Community will always be missed when it is built on preferences instead of promises; when it is built on "like" instead of love.** Community is based not on compatibility but on commonality: our mutual need for grace." **Read Romans 15:7.** What are some things we can do in our group to make sure we create an environment where everyone is welcome to **"the table"** regardless of the messes they bring?

**6 REAL COMMUNITY demands real commitment.** One of our culture's greatest lies is that you can have intimacy without commitment. But connection without commitment ends in pain, not community. Biblical love is love for the long haul; love as a lifestyle, not a hobby. **Read 1 Peter 4:8.** What does showing **"deep love for each other"** look like in practical ways? Follow up discussion: God made His commitment to us in many ways including going to the cross. **1 John 4:16** reminds us that **"God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us."** What are some ways we can **"keep on loving others"** (the focus here being people not already at the table)?

**7 TO KEEP COMMITMENTS we need God.** Because we need others, we need God's help (there's an enemy trying to prevent table gatherings). Share an example of how you need God's help in loving someone else. **Read Ephesians 5:1-2 & Romans 5:5.** What solutions do these verses offer?

