

MESSAGE NOTES

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ~ Week 2 Where Everybody Knows Your Name

Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got.

Taking a break from all of your worries sure would help a lot. Wouldn't you like to get away?

Sometimes you want to go, where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.

You want to be where you can see, our troubles are all the same. You want to go where everybody knows your name.

Resist [the devil], strong in your faith, because you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are enduring the same kinds of suffering. ~ 1 Peter 5:9

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:13

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

Real life change always takes place in the context of small-group relationships.

~ TWO KEY THOUGHTS ABOUT ENGAGING IN OUR VILLAGE ~

1) God calls every person on earth to be a CHRIST FOLLOWER!

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ~ 2 Peter 3:9

2) A Christian without a church family is a CONTRADICTION.

Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:27 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. ~ Romans 12:10-13

~ FOUR REASONS TO JOIN THE VILLAGE ~

1) A Spiritual Reason: Christ is Committed to the local church, we should be too.

... Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. ~ Ephesians 5:25b

2) A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our noncommittal society.

The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word: COMMITMENT.

3) A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

4) A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

~ FIVE REASONS WE MIGHT NOT CHOOSE TO BELONG ~

- 1) I'M UNINFORMED
- 2) I'M SHY
- 3) I'M AFRAID
- 4) I'VE BEEN HURT BEFORE

5) I'M TOO BUSY



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