

Cheers – A strategy for TOGETHER Churches

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 **Key Verse Romans 12:15-16** “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”

The church can learn a thing or two from this iconic tv series CHEERS

Anyone grow up watching this?

We’re discussing how we relate to one another this month and what love looks like according to the Bible.


Someone read Psalm 133. It’s a very short chapter => Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,

....**For there** the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.


The ANOINTING and special presence of JESUS is felt in the room when the kindness and love for one another is genuine!


Do you guys think sometimes we miss out on something God wants to do because we hold too tightly to a “sacred cow” or something important to us and then we get out of unity? Why do we do that? Why are we “tribal” and sometimes miss the KINGDOM aspect?

 **1Thessalonians 5:15** See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.


Together churches create deep & meaningful community w/ one another.

Someone who loves well listens well. Let's think ... WHO at our place of work or neighborhood have I truly listened to lately? Listened with the goal of understanding...


- Community doesn't just happen b/c we are together – community happens when we are intentional and consistent to make it happen. I said this last week and I want to reiterate it this entire series... **We simply can't become who God intends us to become without genuine community (transparency, honesty, empathy, prayer, etc)**
- Be intentional to invite someone into your life & even your mess
- Having a meal together is one of the greatest ways to begin building community “Meals around the table have a way of breaking down walls & barriers.” “Meals around the table breed diversity and give insight into someone else's life and experience.
- Yes – God created us and calls us to have deep meaningful relationships w/ one another.
-  **SOMEONE READ** Acts 2:42-43 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, **to the breaking of bread** and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”
- Why is it important for believers to have meals and conversations together around what GOD is doing in our midst? What does it do for the outsider? 1 Peter 4:9

 // Main Point #2 Together churches

“Make Room”

-  TOGETHER churches are growing churches, TOGETHER churches are churches that consistently work to reach new people and make room for them physically but also by allowing for their giftings (we cannot be territorial people) – We must be open to bringing new people into the family of God (Faith) and into the family of Gods people – (Authentic Community)




Romans 12:10-13 Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

-  Some of the most TOGETHER churches I know are a little chaotic – They are constantly navigating what I call **“Good Problems”** i.e. (Where do we put everybody, should we offer 2 services, where can we renovate to accommodate more people.) These are problems that usher in the next direction for a TOGETHER church.
Let’s discuss the opposite. What are some characteristics of a dying church? What are Christians thinking (let them answer... but you could add ... “Where’s my seat? When are they serving my kids? I don’t need to join a team...”
- Why is it important that each of us **“Join a Group & Get on a Team”**
- As we discuss this in our Group today, be thinking about who you can invite - who can you include and bring along - who may be radically different from you at work or in your neighborhood BUT may need to know Jesus?

TOGETHER Church happens through a multi-Generational lens.

- TOGETHER Churches understand the importance of the next generation and they actively create space for the giftings, creativity and wisdom of a younger generation.
- An older generation doesn't pass the torch to a younger generation they teach & model for a younger generation how to lite the torch and keep it lit.
- Titus 2:1-10 – Paraphrase to save time.
- Older Generations - Older people must find their joy in passing off leadership to the next generation. They must learn to find their joy in witnessing the next generation incarnating the gospel into their context. They must let go of the idol of the past, their need to control and, most importantly, their need to be made much of for all the work they have put in over the years. They need to rejoice in all the work Jesus has done for them over the years.
- Younger Generations - need to identify the real and meaningful struggle older people endure. The constant sense of loss. The loss of a career, the loss of loved ones, the loss of mobility, the loss of understanding how things work (like smartphones). The loss of control of their lives, knowing that they face an ever-declining future of less independence and more reliance on others. Young people need to show an overwhelming amount of compassion to older people and walk with them through this difficult stage in life.

Together churches have a strong burden for the lost.

- The heartbeat of any TOGETHER church is reaching the lost with the gospel.
- Everything we do whether in our groups, midweeks, Sunday morning experience should work to connect lost people with the gospel and invite them into the life of the church.
- We want to help move people from “Curious to Committed” Let’s go around the room - is there someone at work that may be “curious” about God or faith? If so, who comes to mind?
- **Evangelism through relationship is the best way to create connected and committed converts.** –  What is your circle of influence? Who has God placed in your life that you can invite, reach out to, share the gospel with?
-  Matthew 28:18 is NOT just for pastors. It’s for you. It’s for me. Believers must become disciples (followers who embrace and obey) who make disciples (reach people) if we are to become what God wants.
-  Investing in someone’s life has the potential to make an eternal impact. – Don’t overlook the people God has brought into your life.

TOGETHER churches are intentional and consistent in reaching people and building community both inside and outside the walls of the church, they have a generational focus and create space for each person’s gifts & talents to be used to reach the lost.

// Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be a TOGETHER people?
2. Why do you think it's hard for people to have relationships that go beyond the surface level?
3. What is one sacred cow (idol) that you have grown comfortable w/ in church that would be hard for you to give up? What can we learn from Jesus' life about the importance of not holding onto our comforts?
4. What is something that you can invest into a generation that is different than yours?
5. Name 1 person that God has put in your circle of influence and brainstorm how you can reach them for Jesus.