

An Invitation to Do Life with Us

1/30/11

Jesus and the early church did not attend their religion;

they did life together in small groups.

Jesus set the example of doing life together in small groups

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸ And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

¹⁹ And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

²⁰ And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him.

²¹ And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

²² And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

²³ And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

The early church followed Jesus' example of doing life together in small groups

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."

⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common;

⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

⁴⁶ And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from **house to house**, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, even Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which **every** joint supplies, according to the proper working of **each** individual part, causes the growth of the body for **the building up of itself** in love.

The “one another” commands of the Bible require the doing of life together in small groups

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, **keep fervent in your love for one another**, because love covers a multitude of sins.

⁹ **Be hospitable to one another** without complaint.

¹⁰ As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in **serving one another**, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Hebrews 3:13 But **encourage one another** day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to **stimulate one another** to love and good deeds,

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing one another** with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We invite you to check out our small groups until you find the one that best fits you. They will all warmly welcome you. See our list of small groups.

All Scripture is from the NASV