

## Intentionally Pursuing Community

### Why?

God has always been relational: In Genesis 1:26, God said he made mankind in “our likeness” implying there was more than one person. We come to know that God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in a perfect loving union. In Christ, we are invited to partake in the Trinitarian love that is God when we come to Christ. His Sonship is also made our own as we become a child of God and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

#### **John 17:20-26**

*20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”*

We are created in his likeness: This also means to live in His likeness. Jesus said the two greatest commandments are to “love God and to love neighbor.” We can begin to do those things because of our relationship with God in Christ. Because we are in Christ, He has made us new by His Spirit, teaching us how to love Him, but it doesn’t stop there. Just as God lives in a perfect loving relationship, we are called to be imitators of that love to one another because of what we have received in Him.

#### **Gen 1:26-27**

*26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

### Unity in Christ:

#### Shared Humanness - **Philippians 2:5-8**

*5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

#### Shared Faith - **Ephesian 4:4-7**

*4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7*

## One Body. Many Parts - Corinthians 12:12-27

vs. 12-13 (Read the rest of the passage for more)

*12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

## **How?**

### Live out the “One Anothers”

- Love One Another
- Honor One Another
- Greet One Another
- Welcome One Another
- Show Hospitality to One Another
- Have Fellowship with One Another
- Live in Harmony with One Another
- Be At Peace with One Another
- Be Kind to One Another
- Forgive One Another
- Bear with One Another
- Bear One Another’s Burdens
- Comfort One Another
- Care for One Another
- Confess Sins to One Another
- Pray for One Another
- Encourage One Another
- Build One Another Up
- Exhort One Another
- Instruct One Another
- Teach and Admonish One Another
- Sing with One Another
- Stir Up One Another to Love and Good Works
- Do Good to One Another
- Serve One Another
- Wash One Another’s Feet
- Wait for One Another
- Be Humble Towards One Another
- Submit to One Another
- Speak the Truth to One Another
- Do Not Speak Against One Another
- Do Not Judge One Another
- Do Not Provoke One Another
- Do Not Envy One Another

For more information and further reading on the “One Anothers” visit this link:

<https://www.watermark.org/blog/the-one-anothers-of-scripture>

## Practical Ways for Living Out Community here at The Well

### Attend the Gatherings

- Attending the Gatherings helps us all as believers to worship together and to center our hearts and minds on Christ. In doing this, we remember to keep eternity in mind as we look at the hope we have in Christ today and for the future.

### Life Groups

- Life groups are the lifeblood of our Church. It is a place to be seen, be known, be heard, and be loved as we stir one another to love and good works. It is the place in which we live out this messy process of life in Christ.

### Serving

- Serving with one another is a great place to see different members use their gifts, skills, and talents to participate in Kingdom Ministry. In serving with others you get to know one another and see how our differences work together in the Body of Christ.