

## Introduction

### **True Fellowship**

What is Fellowship? Fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_ living your life in  
\_\_\_\_\_ with other Christians.

### **10 Reasons Why the Christian Life is a Connected Life**

**#1 We were created to be in relationship with God and others**

**#2 Individualism is inconsistent with the kingdom of Heaven**

**#3 The horizontal cannot be disconnected from the vertical**

St. Augustine in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century said it this way, "[A person] cannot have God for his father who refuses to have the Church (the people of God) for his mother."

**#4 Relationships lay the proper foundation for all the ministry of the church**

**#5 We have an adversary, connection is necessary for protection and encouragement**

**#6 Jesus modeled it**

**#7 The early church modeled it**

**#8 Individualized faith is in direct contradiction to the overall plan of God on earth**

Dallas Willard puts it this way, "The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant."

**#9 We, as individuals, are commanded to build up the Body of Christ**

Oswald Chambers, in *My Utmost for His Highest*, "We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy spiritual retirement; we are here so to realize Jesus Christ that the Body of Christ (the Church) may be built up. Am I building up the Body of Christ, or am I looking for my own personal development only?"

**#10 God is uniquely present in the gathered community**

"The mystery of the church consists in the very fact that *together* sinners become *something different* from what they are as individuals; this 'something different' is the Body of Christ."

## **CONCLUSION**

Challenge to action