



Communities of Grace and Truth

Creating a Culture of Grace

A Community of Grace and Truth



- **Why is community important?**

- It is God's will for His people to experience His fullness.
- This fullness is best experienced in the context of communities of grace and truth.
 - *²² And God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as head over all things. Now the church is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. - Ephesians 1:22-23*

“Jesus fills His people with Himself—His power, truth mercy, grace and beauty—and as He does, we experience the perfect Jesus though an imperfect church.” – Tim Chester

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- *The Primary purpose of community is to display to each other the fullness of Jesus.*
 - *¹⁵ But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. ¹⁶ From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love. - Ephesians 4:15-16*
 - *Community is NOT our savior, Jesus is. Our goal should be to point each other to the grace, truth, beauty, and power of Jesus through our words and our lives.*
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- *To withdraw from community is to withdraw from experiencing the fullness of Jesus.*
 - *Every person who has the Spirit of God in them, however weak and flawed, is a conduit to experiencing Jesus in some way. We should not make too much of community, but neither should we make too little of it.*
 - *¹⁴ But I myself am fully convinced about you, my brothers and sisters,^[a] that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. – Romans 15:14*
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A Picture of Real Community

Transparency

- Allowing others to see but not engage
- Willing to talk but not listen
- Easy to fake
- *Calculated transparency*



A Picture of Real Community

Vulnerability

- Willingness to share wounds
- Openness to:
 - Challenge
 - Rebuke
 - Encouragement
- Vertical & Horizontal Confession
 - Faithful Wounds





Work It Out Together

Group Exercise

Distortion	Jesus' Body (Ephesians)	Glass Houses (Hebrews)
"Every week, I tell the guys in my accountability group about how I've failed during the week. It makes me so much better."	☐	☐
"I tried calling three different girls in my small group and none of them answered. I had no one to help me in my moment of crisis and so I fell into sin."	☐	☐
"When my friend told me about his discouragements as a dad, I told him some stories about my experience as a father and what I would do if I were him."	☐	☐
"I have worked so hard to fit into my small group, but no one gets me. No one understands what I'm going through. I'm done. This community thing doesn't work."	☐	☐
"I don't like to air my dirty laundry. Plus, I don't really trust anyone to hear my struggles and not judge me. Jesus and I work things out alone."	☐	☐
"I love my small group! We have so much fun just talking about life and hanging out together."	☐	☐



A Conversation

Talk About Vulnerability

Soul  Care

COLLEGE PARK CHURCH



Q&R

Question & Response