

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK

Part 2: Why Community Matters

WEEK OF JUNE 13, 2021

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Who here really knows you? To whom have you allowed yourself to be known?
 - The first church devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching, prayer, communion, and to each other.
 - Two common reasons you may not have a community of people devoted to each other:
 - 1 - We're afraid to be known, so we settle for cheap substitutes.
 - "To be loved and not known is shallow; to be known and not loved is our greatest fear."
 - 2 - We aren't willing to do what it takes to cultivate that kind of community.
 - Community doesn't come easy. You have to fight for it.
 - Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. | Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
 - A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back to back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. | Ecclesiastes 4:12
 - It's easy to stumble your way out of "church." It's almost impossible to stumble your way out of community.
 - "The first step away from God is a step away from God's people."
 - The most significant step toward God can be the step toward God's people.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How difficult or how easy has it been for you to develop a community of deep relationships?
2. Often, we're afraid to be known, so we settle for cheap substitutes. In what ways, now or in the past, have you settled for cheap substitutes to real, meaningful relationships?
3. How could you use the flexibility of watching Epic Online on demand with others to develop meaningful community?
4. What are the benefits to having a great community of deep relationships around you? If you can speak from experience, please share. If not, what do you think those benefits would be?
5. Cultivating deep relationships and community isn't easy. It takes work. What do you find most challenging about the "work" of developing and growing in deep relationships? What part of the "work" do you most need to commit to improving?