

October 4/5, 2008

**“Don’t Walk Alone”**

Fellowship - “\_\_\_\_\_”

Pastor Mark Burch

**Genesis 2:18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone...”**

**Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind...**

**Ephesians 2:14 He is our peace...destroying the barriers and dividing walls...**

In the last evening before His crucifixion Jesus placed the mantle of responsibility on His followers to impact the world for the glory of God. There were two defining values at the core of His instruction: that they would LOVE one another, and that they would BE ONE. The unity and the community of the family of God, is not only our greatest gift to the world, but also our greatest battle strategy against the enemy. So why is “community” such a struggle?

Created for Community

Broken

Restoration Offered – Peace Secured

The Call & The Cost

Unity, Unanimity, Conformity, Diversity, Men and Women

The Challenge:

## **Quest Group Discussion Questions**

### **History (Making it Personal)**

1. Talk about the impossibility of “living alone.” Have you ever known anyone who was able to live life without personal relationships? What is it that drives us apart from one another? Even Grizzly Adams had to go to town for supplies every now and then!!
2. Talk about the difference between how men and women “do” community. What do you think of the comment that women do community face-to-face, while men do community shoulder-to-shoulder? True? What are the implications for our ministry?
3. Think of some of your best friends...what was the context in which those relationships grew? What factors contributed to making them life-long friends? Why does time and distance not change this?

### **Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)**

4. Read John 17 in its entirety and then focus on vv 20-21 and talk about the image and need for “oneness” in the family of God.  
How critical is our unity and love?  
What do we know/understand about the unity/oneness of God?  
To have unity; do we have to look/act/believe alike on every issue?  
How do we handle diversity in the body? (Romans 14)
5. Read Acts 2:42-27; 4:32-37. Ever experienced this kind of community?  
Why do we assume this kind of community is impossible today?  
What wars against this kind of sharing of our lives?  
How has individualism impacted our lives and our churches?  
Think specifically of WPC – can we build communities like this?  
What would it cost us? What would it take?
6. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and talk about the barriers and walls that separate us from each other today. Talk about the vertical and horizontal aspects of the cross & the implications.  
What are the biggest “barriers” that keep us apart today?  
What cultural realities war against community?  
How do you think Satan uses our culture to keep us apart?  
C.S Lewis writes: “Scarcity enables a community to exist?”  
Would we be better off if we had less?

### **Taking It Home (Application)**

7. Talk about WPC and the impact we want to have in this region. It likely will not be through great weekend services that we have our greatest impact – but what will it be – what should it be – how will it happen?
8. Talk about the gift of hospitality and how it is so critical to community. Is it any surprise that hospitality is a “lost art” and that our society is so disconnected?! What does it say about our pace of life?
9. As you think of building community “shoulder-to-shoulder” talk about one project your small group might tackle before Christmas. A yard clean-up for a widow, a Christmas hamper for a needy family, a community graffiti clean-up, a fall block party....whatever...