

Preparing For Life's Healing Choices Series

GETTING SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED

March 21, 2010

What If We Could Connect More Adults In Small Groups Than We Have In Our Worship Services?

The Bible says that that BEING SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED means:

1. We're Built like a Building

"In [Christ] you are **built together** spiritually into a dwelling place for God"
Ephesians 2:22 NRSV

- We are meant to fit together like bricks in a new building

2. We're Joined in a Body

"Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's Body We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do So **we belong** to each other, and **each of us needs** all the others" *Romans 12: 4-5 TLB*

- We are a part of something bigger than ourselves

3. We're Born into a Family

"I want you to know how people who are **members of God's family** must live. God's family is the church..." *1 Timothy 3:15 GW*

- Christianity is a *belong* system

4. We're Attached to a Vine

'Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me" *John 15:4 GW*

- Connection is not just a horizontal issue – It's a vertical one as well

The Evidence of Connection: "But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law." *Galatians 5:22-23 HCSB*

How To Get Connected

1. Beat the "I'm too busy" syndrome with Biblical Priority

"But **seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." *Matthew 6:33 HCSB*

- I like keeping my own problems to myself
- The best way to find a group "like you" is to host a group, and invite your family and friends
- Saturate your decision in prayer

2. Get Small: Once your group gets beyond 10–12 people, break into smaller groups

3. Get Together: Frequent interaction between members is a must

4. Get Real: create a safe environment where group members can talk honestly about tough issues and serious family concerns

5. Get Creative: Create a variety of settings where members can participate together in learning, discussing, and having fun

6. Get Serious: Encourage each group member to set some measurable, achievable goals and a sense of accountability