

Why Community?  
(Because God Says So)  
Jo 13:34-35; I Jo 3:16

The Wonderful Gift of God's Love Can Never Be Put into the Service of Self-Interest

...His love must be returned back to Him as life for others - I Jo 4:7-12, 20-21

God Commands Us to Love One Another: (Jo 13:34)

...It reveals that our thoughts and feelings don't always tell us the truth - Jo 7:24; II Co 5:7

- To choose against our feelings does not make us hypocritical, but faithful

...It reminds us that there is not love in abstract - I Co 13:1-8

- Fantasies of love are forms of coveting and idol worship

...It presses us into "Not I, but Christ" - Ga 2:20

- All God's commands come with a corresponding supply of His Life - II Pet 1:3,4

When the Love of Christ Is Our Source... (II Co 5:14)

...We will personalize our love - Ga 5:6

- God's love takes our "form" to personally touch the life of another

- We will do so non-selectively - Jo 3:16

...We will get up close with our love - Jo 1:14; 9:1-5

- The gift of open arms - Ro 15:7

- The gift of open ears - Ja 1:19; Prov 18:13

...We will address the needs of others with our love - Matt 4:23; Acts 10:38

- We will feed one another - Jo 21:15-17

...with words of love - II Thess 2:17

...with deeds of love - II Thess 2:17

...We will make a difference - I Co 13:8

- Our role is to lay down our lives and trust Christ to make a difference - I Jo 3:16

..."I lay down My Life for others, will you do the same?"