

In Christ: The Arena of Interpersonal Participation

To Be Immersed into Christ Is to Be immersed into a Participating Community - I Cor 12:13

- Into a life of fellowship with God and all who belong to Him - I Cor 12:12,14,18
- ...we are called to be caretakers of "being" - Acts 17:28

In Christ...

- God Made Room for Us in His Family - Jo 14:6; II Cor 5:19; Eph 2:19; Col 1:21
- God Has Accepted Us - Jo 6:37; 14:3; Ro 15:7
- God Has Been Good to Us - Ps 103:10; Jer 31:3; Ro 2:4; Eph 1:3; II Pet 1:3,4 (Ps 27:13)
- God Has Spoken the Truth in Love to Us - Jo 8:31-32; 18:37
- God Has Made Intercession for Us - Ro 8:34; Heb 7:25

(This is the truth of what it means to be God... and to be the people of God) - I Jo 2:8; 5:20; Heb 10:23-25

As the Body of Christ...

- We Make Room for Strangers ("hospitality") - Matt 25:35; Heb 13:2; I Pet 4:9
 - ...our "strangeness" was no grounds for God to keep His distance - Jo 3:16; I Jo 4:9,10
 - ...we seek out/pursue the "stranger" - Ro 12:13
 - ...we provide a safe place for people to bring their humanity!
- We Accept One Another - Ro 12:10; 15:7
 - ...with confidence in His transformative power - II Thess 3:4,5
 - ...we exclude preferential treatment/"selective" acceptance - I Cor 12:18; Phil 4:21; Ja 2:1ff
 - ...we refuse to critically judge one another by our own spiritual convictions - Ro 14:1ff
- We Are Good to One Another - Acts 10:38; Ro 15:4; I Tim 6:18
 - ...we give our "presence" to others - II Cor 8:1-5; I Thess 2:8
 - ...we give "presents" to others - Ro 14:19; Eph 4:28-2-9; I Tim 2:10-11; Titus 3:8,14
- We Are Agents of Loving Truth - I Jo 2:8; 5:20
 - ...we love one another well enough to be able to speak the truth - Eph 4:15,25
 - ...Warning: there is an attractive AND a repellent feature to truth - Jo 17:14
- We Are Intercessors - I Jo 3:16
 - ...we give the gifts of our very lives - I Thess 2:8
 - ..."If God allows us to see another at fault it is not so that we may be judgmental/critical... but that we might intercede." (O. Chambers) - Ga 6:1,2
 - ...we pray with our life, "on earth as it is in heaven" (= life for others!) - Matt 6:10