

## Why Invest Yourself in Christian Community

Even though we are all meant to respond individually to Jesus' call on our lives to come and follow Jesus, we cannot follow Jesus on our own. Scripture is very clear that it is essential for our spiritual well being to be part of a local Christian community. The Bible is full of instructions that assume the context of community and make clear that following Jesus and growing spiritually can only be done through living in community.

Going to a Sunday service does not automatically lead us to engage in community the way the Bible pictures it. There are a lot of "one another" passages in the Bible that assume being personally involved in each other's life, something which is not easily and consistently possible in a larger church gathering.

- Galatians 6:2 - "Carry **each other's** burdens ...."  
Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how we may spur **one another** on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging **one another** – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
- Colossians 3:16 - "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish **one another** with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."  
James 5:16 - "Therefore confess your sins to **each other** and pray for **each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

This one-anothering is everyone's responsibility. Every member is actively engaged with other people in a personal way. It is when you have a small community of people playing this role in each other's life, that The Vine's vision of Growing Big People develops in your life. This is the way that God has chosen to build us up towards maturity. If you are not living in community, you are missing out on the major way that God wants to work in and through your life. This is why we emphasise community living at The Vine and are passionate in helping you find a community to belong to and invest in.

- Ephesians 4 names the aim of Christian community is to use our gifts and works of service to build each other up, <sup>43</sup>**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."**

Jesus called Christian community into existence and made it part of his plan and strategy in redeeming the world. Jesus died for the Christian community that he entrusted his mission to showing us the value and importance of community.