

“BELONGING IN CHRIST: EMPOWERED RELATIONSHIPS”

“Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.” (John 17:11b)

WE DO NOT ‘BELONG IN CHRIST’ ALONE.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

NOT ALL RELATIONSHIPS ARE HEALTHY.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. (1 Corinthians 12:21)

THE PATH TO EMPOWERED RELATIONSHIPS

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:8)

1. GIVE AND RECEIVE ENCOURAGEMENT

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

A. ARE YOU AN ENCOURAGER OR A DISCOURAGER?

2. GIVE AND RECEIVE COMFORT

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Colossians 3:12-13)

A. BE HONEST AND VULNERABLE

B. BE WILLING TO RELY ON OTHERS

C. BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO COMFORT

MEMORY VERSE

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. (1 John 3:18 NLT)

3. GIVE AND RECEIVE MOTIVATION

A. MANIPULATION ENERGIZES OTHERS FOR MY DIRECTION

B. MOTIVATION ENERGIZES OTHERS FOR THEIR DIRECTION

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, (Hebrews 10:24 NIV)

4. GIVE AND RECEIVE HELP

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

A. ADMIT WEAKNESS

B. KNOW YOUR STRENGTHS

C. SERVE BEYOND YOUR TEAM

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. (1 Corinthians 12:24b-26)