

“Why We Need Each Other” 1 Thessalonians 2:13-3:12

Take-home truth: Staying committed to Christian community keeps our faith strong.

Paul’s example demonstrates several reasons why Christian community is so significant in our lives.

- **OUR COMMON SALVATION UNIQUELY CONNECTS OUR LIVES.**

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴For you, brothers, become imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14a (English Standard Version)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, . . . ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, . . . 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (ESV)

For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. Hebrews 4:2 (ESV)

And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. Acts 17:4 (ESV)

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. Romans 8:15-16 (New Living Translation)

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (ESV)

- **BELIEVERS GIVE EACH OTHER ONGOING LOVE, CONCERN AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT.**

But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us . . . ^{3:1}Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18; 3:1-4 (ESV)

“Establish” = to support, to reinforce it and keep it strong

“Exhort” = to strongly encourage

How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God’s presence. ¹⁰Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith. ¹¹May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. ¹²And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. ¹³May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NLT)

- **OUR INVESTMENTS IN EACH OTHER’S LIVES WILL BE PART OF OUR REWARD IN HEAVEN.**

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (ESV)

“Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.” Revelation 22:12 (NLT)

See also 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 12:36; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 6:7, 9