

Series: Follow Jesus With Us

Sermon: CONNECT

**Passage: Various**

Illustration:

Need: God has designed Christians to live their life in the context of interconnected, intentional community.

**I. God designed humans for community.**

- Gen. 1:27 = created in God's image and God is in community - Father, Son & HS.
- Gen. 2:18 = marriage "not good that the man should be alone."
- Gen. 1:28 = family/procreation "be fruitful and multiply."

**II. God designed His people to function as community.**

- Gen. 12:2 = Israel was a covenant people of God's creation "I will make you a great nation."
- **1 Cor. 12:12-13; 26-27** = God's church is one body with many interdependent interconnected members.
- **Eph. 4:4-6** = our common denominators are the indwelling Holy Spirit, faith in Jesus confessed in public baptism, and our Heavenly Father.
- **Heb. 10:24-25** = believers are called to actively wade into the community not isolate from it.
- The NT contains close to 50 "one another" instructions for how believers are to engage with others for their benefit - love, encourage, bear burdens, bear with, comfort, welcome, care for, submit to, etc...
- Disciples of Jesus Christ obey Him by embracing the community that He has designed us for.

**III. CONNECTing at Oasis Church**

- Corporate worship is vitally important to spiritual health of every believer but it's not CONNECTing.
- CONNECTing is the intentional, vulnerable and regular engagement with other believers.
- LifeGroups, LifeGroups, LifeGroups! Our #1 connection tool at OC is the adult LifeGroup.
- In a LifeGroup is where you practice the "one anothers" of a disciple.
- CONNECTION is messy and it's natural to want to withdraw and isolate, but that is withdrawing from what God has called us to embrace - "one another."
- Men's and Women's groups, young adult groups, students & Kidz ministry also provide CONNECTION.
- Our #2 connection tool at OC is Covenant Partnership (church membership).
- Covenant Partnership is the vehicle for intentional commitment to the philosophy, ministry strategy, and accountability to Oasis Church.

**IV. Take it personally.**

- CONNECTing in the body as a disciple of Jesus begins with saving faith in Jesus. Trust Him today.
- Commit to weekly worship attendance for your own spiritual health and that of your family.
- If Oasis is your church, decide to get CONNECTed this year.
  - Adults & young adults, join a LifeGroup this fall.
  - Become an OC Covenant Partner or answer the question "Why would I not?"
  - Parents, get your children here on Wednesday nights for BT & Kidz TOAST.
  - Take advantage of Men's and Women's events.