

# Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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Part of the 'Growing Together'  
Discipleship Stream



# The Fellowship

**Relationships Matter**

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# God *is* Love

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# God called people his own – Hebrews

- Needs of many over needs of one
- Collective harmony expressed in tribes and clans

**R e l a t i o n s h i p s   M a t t e r**

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# Changing World, same standards

- How we relate and connect is changing

*But what are we loosing*

- God's call on SCF has not changed

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- **Christ reconciled us to God through his work on the Cross and made us righteous**
- **Christ bought unity amongst his people and gave birth to a new community**
- **In Christ we now live differently**

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# God's Desire for a Community of believers

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# God called Israel to be 'A Holy and distinct People'

*The tragedy is that Israel forgot her vocation, twisted her privilege into favouritism and ended with heartily despising and detesting the heathen as 'dogs'*

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Ephesians 2:11-22 - Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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**Christ has created a new  
community through his work  
on the cross**

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# A New Way of Living (New Standards)

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- **We are now part of a tribe**
- **The way we talk to one another**
- **The way we talk *about* one another**
- **We no longer gossip**
- **We no longer judge**
- **We seek to remove our plank**
- **We go and remove the spec**
- **We disagree**
- **But it doesn't damage the relationship**

**R e l a t i o n s h i p s   M a t t e r**

G O D ' S   D E S I R E   F O R   A   C O M M U N I T Y   O F   B E L I E V E R S

- **We treat people in the same way we want to be treated**
- **We put the needs of others above our own**
- **We choose to love those we don't like**
- **Until we like them**
- **We lay our lives down for others (not just those we like)**
- **As Christ laid down his life for us**

**R e l a t i o n s h i p s   M a t t e r**

G O D ' S   D E S I R E   F O R   A   C O M M U N I T Y   O F   B E L I E V E R S

# How do we do this?

- Not in our own strength
- Entering into what Christ has done for us
- Putting off the old man
- Putting on Christ
- Walking out our 'Freedom in Christ'
- As we interact in our community

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- **Not much of this will be new**
- **We don't hear it**
- **We don't apply it**
- **It becomes a list of things I must do**
- **Embracing what Christ has won for me**

**Will you as part of 'The Tribe' that is Solihull Christian Fellowship take the time to think about, digest, attend workshops and work this out?**

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# God's Desire for a Community of Believers

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