



BRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community in God's Image

What Makes Community Beautiful

January 21, 2024

Angelo

Introduction:

God is a Beautiful Community (Gen. 1:1-2, 26-27; John 1:1-18; Matt. 28:19; Phil. 2:5-11; Jn.14-16)

"We were made to image God as a beautiful community, but sin ruptured our communion and polarization has been our story ever since." – Irwyn L. Ince Jr, *The Beautiful Community*

Humanity is a Broken Community

God Brings Redemption, Reunion and Renewal

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. – Ephesians 2:13-18

"These words we find throughout God's Word—renewed, reconciled, united—are the reversal of the fractures, divides, breaks and partitions of life in this world and before God that were and are so desperately needed. We are truly stamped from the beginning for unity and union, for wholeness and shalom, for beauty. God himself is committed to knitting the human race back together in Jesus Christ." – Irwyn L. Ince Jr., *The Beautiful Community*

How to Make a Beautiful Community (Eph. 5:16-26)

⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. – Galatians 5:5-6

"The deepest meaning of the human person is not a reality defined simply by individualism but includes, as essential to the definition, one who is interrelated. Christian community is, then, a gathering of persons called by God in Christ, empowered and animated by the indwelling presence of the Spirit, who feely give themselves to one another in love. The human person as "Imago Dei" is called to share in the shared love of the Trinity and communicate that love to others." – Jean Marie Dwyer, *Community as the Image of the Trinity*
