

created
for

community.

@palexevans

This week we are starting a new series on Created for Community. We are all unique and different in our own rights, but through our individual giftings and talents, together, we made up the body of the church. Every single one of us has a part to play and a place to belong in the community.

All of us are created by God with a great purpose. When we walk out our purpose to encourage and serve one another, we are walking into our purpose. Just as Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, came to serve the people He intended to save, He did not come to be served by people. It is important for us to understand that we can start the first step in walking out our purpose by serving in the community that we belong to.

The way we can do this is to understand that serving is not about the action of serving but it is more about the heart that's been changed by the encounter we have with the love that Jesus pours into our lives. That's where we want to head towards as a community, to experience the love of God that motivates us to serve our community with that same love.

Hebrews 10:22-25

²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

James 5:16

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. All of us are created for a purpose, and that purpose is to love others just as God has loved us. However, just like the illustration that Pastor Alex used about the fire extinguisher, that purpose can exist inside us but we never realized it at all.

Do you believe that you, in all that is uniquely you, have a part to play in our community? Why?

2. Jesus showed us the perfect example of what it looks like to share the love of God in this world, and that is through serving the people He was with. What are some areas in your community that you feel you can contribute to or help with?

3. Serving is not about the action itself, but it comes out from the heart that's been changed through our encounter with Christ. What are some things that might be blocking us from experiencing God's love in our life?

4. In Hebrew 10:24 it talks about how we should think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

Have you ever had anyone motivates you in such a way? Or perhaps, have you ever motivated someone to do so?

If you have, what kind of effect does it have on you or the other person?

If not, what are some practical ways you can do to encourage one another?

5. Think about one tangible and practical way you can do this week to start serving in the community and share it with your Connect Group.