



#2 Community

Consider...

Loneliness has become a major problem in the modern west. Many people find themselves socially isolated and longing for relationships.

Despite this, it seems there is much about our culture that makes community difficult. Many people don't even know their neighbours, our busy lives make it hard to fit

relationships into what little free time we have, and because we have the means to live independently, we don't need to rely on others.

Perhaps because of this, many see the Christian faith as something that can be lived out in isolation. In fact lots of Christians see absolutely no need for Church whatsoever! At Summerleas we totally disagree with this. We believe that living in community is a vital part of the Christian life and is right at the heart of God's purposes for us!

Read...

1. Read Genesis 1:26 and John 1:1-2. What do these passages tell us about what God is like?

2. Read Genesis 1:27. What do these passages tell us about the nature of humanity?

3. Read Revelation 21:1-3. This passage describes God's ultimate plan for his people. To what extent is community present in this passage?

4. Read the following passages. Why do each of them see community as being so important for Christians?

Hebrews 3:13 and 10:24-25.

John 13:34-35 and 17:20-23.

Ephesians 3:6 and 3:10

Think...

How do the above passages shape a person's response to the following thoughts / temptations.

'I prefer time on my own, I find being around others draining and so I don't like Church or Gospel Community very much.'

'I'm happy to rock up to church once a week, but that's enough for me, I don't want to share my life with anyone'

'I don't have time to build relationships with people from Church'

'I just rock up to church when I feel like it, or when there's nothing else on. It's pretty much bottom of my priority list.'