

Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS



Part of the 'Growing Together'
Discipleship Stream

Solihull
Christian
Fellowship



Welcome to the Family

Paul Belcher

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

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

A New Life

Ephesians 1:1 – 2:10

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

Greetings

- Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are [in Solihull]...
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing

- Chosen us...that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- Adopted to himself as sons
- Redeemed by His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses
- Making known to us His plan for the fullness of time to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth (Rev 21:1-4)
- Obtained an inheritance
- Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it

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

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

Thanksgiving for:

- your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints.

Prayer for wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of:

- The hope...His glorious inheritance in the saints – *future*
- The immeasurable greatness of His power towards us who believe – *present*
- **Christ...seated** at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places, **far above all rule and authority**...and gave him as **head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

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

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ***In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.***

Ephesians 2:18 - 22



Relationships Matter
GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

You were:

- Dead in trespasses and sins
 - Following the course of this world – ***the world***
 - Following the prince of the power of the air – ***the devil***
 - Living in the passions of our flesh [natural self] – ***the flesh***
- BUT God, being rich in mercy because of his great love for us...***
- Made us alive together with Christ
 - **Seated us with Him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

A New Community

Ephesians 2:11 – 3:21



R e l a t i o n s h i p s M a t t e r
GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

At one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision”

- were separated from Christ,
- alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
- and strangers to the covenants of promise,
- having no hope and without God in the world.

But now ***in Christ Jesus*** you

- have been brought near by the blood of Christ
- He has made us both one
- by abolishing the [ceremonial] law
- To create in himself one new man in place of the two... and ***reconcile us both*** to God in one body ***through the cross***

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

Of this gospel I [apostle Paul] was made a minister...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.



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

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



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

Recommended further reading:

The Message of Ephesians by John R W Stott 311 pages

Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters
Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon by Tom Wright
78 pages on Ephesians, total 227 pages

For Everyone, Bible Study Guides: Ephesians by Tom Wright 63 pages

Sit, Walk, Stand by Watchman Nee 64pages



Relationships Matter
GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS