

Irresistible Faith: Belonging to an Irresistible Community (Part 1)

What makes Christianity noticeable to others is not just a believer's individual faith, but how they treat others. Whether we like it or not, we're all in this together:

#1 The phrase "one another" occurs 100 times in the N.T.

- Those commands make sense because we are saved into a community of faith.
- *"In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"* ([Romans 12:5](#)).

#2 We were designed for deep friendship, not isolation.

- When God created the universe, he declared it all "very good" ([Genesis 1:31](#)).
- Yet, God still saw something missing: *"It is not good that the man should be alone"* ([Genesis 2:18](#)).

#3 Our interactions have a direct impact on our witness to the world.

- *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"* ([John 13:35](#)).
- When others see that we treat people better than they deserve, they'll wonder why, and learn of Christ, who treated us better than we deserve.

Here are 2 practices you can start doing to bless your church community:

Practice transparency by being honest with others about your weakness and sin.

- Like Adam & Eve hid from the Lord in Genesis 3, we have become skilled at hiding from others.
- In the Bible we see a different approach: confession of sin
- *"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."* ([James 5:16](#)).
- It's the truth of the gospel that moves us to transparency.
- *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just & will forgive us our sins & purify us from all unrighteous..."* ([1 John 1:9](#))

Practice kindness with how you speak with those around you.

- Have you ever doubted God's love & forgiveness? That's common and we need others to remind us of God's truth.
- *"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ"* ([Ephesians 4:15](#)).
- What if everyone in the church was convinced of this one practice: to only speak true words kindly. Would skeptics be curious about our church community?
- *"Be kind & compassionate to one another"* ([Ephesians 4:32](#)).
- *"Let your conversation be always full of grace..."* ([Colossians 4:6](#)).
- Our best witness is to become the kind of community that we would want to be part of, and is difficult to find!

Men, we have a breakfast coming up on Saturday, 1/22 at 8am. Our speaker lived in Liberia as a missionary during their civil war and has some amazing stories of God's faithfulness to share with us. RSVP: www.Go2Cornerstone.com/men