

Lesson Six: TOGETHER: Moving from Isolation to Community

Isolation

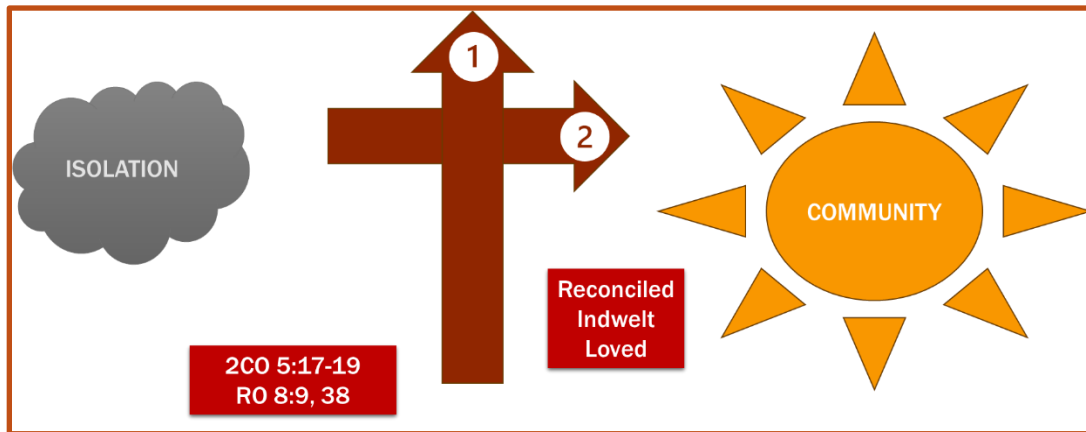
***Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.
Proverbs 18:1***

Isolation is the state we find ourselves where we live lives separated and divided from others and God because of sinful behavior, sin based patterns, and pride. Isolation causes loneliness and is characterized by a sense we alone, separated and unable to connect with God or others. In isolation we are threatened and in competition with others and we believe we can only sustain and improve our lives by our own efforts. We relentlessly strive to remove this tension by our own self righteousness. We believe the lie that I'm just not that bad.

Out of Isolation to Community

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15: 5-7

We move out of isolation into community as we walk / abide in our vertical reconciliation and repair through Christ that equips us to lovingly connect with His people, the Body of Christ. We become safe. As we abide, we are fully known and fully loved by God and we can now connect, deeply know, and love one another. We can live TOGETHER as the body of Christ in harmony with one another glorifying God.



“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God.” Tim Keller

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you isolate?
2. Why do you hide your struggles, temptations, failures, and sins?
3. What keeps you from abiding / walking in the vertical repair?
4. What new ways can you horizontally connect?
5. What is your biggest take-away from our summer study?



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