

MADE FOR IT PART 1
“MADE FOR CONNECTION”
SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2; GENESIS 2; JOHN 15
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INTRODUCTION

- Only in the modern age has the idea of independence become a point of conversation and belief.
- For the early Followers of Jesus, connection was key.
- "God didn't create us to drift alone. He made us to live intentionally connected lives, with Him and each other."

I. IN THE BEGINNING

- We are created for connection.
- Genesis 1:27, "So God created human beings in His own image..."
- Genesis 2:18-25, Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."...²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.' "..."
- Humanity was created in relationship with God.
- We were created to live intentionally connected lives — with Him and each other.

II. THE WAY

- For most of human history, people needed a community to survive. This is how the Way understood the Kingdom.
- Acts 2:42-47 NLT, "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals...and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had..."

- It was community that shaped the environment that fueled formation, miracles, generosity, and salvation.
- Vs. 42 - Fellowship = *Koinonia*
- Root = *koinos* - meaning "common" or "shared."
- Community is found and formed around the tables of our homes far more than in the rows of our churches.
- Programs gather people. Spirit-formed communities transform people.

III. FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

- Luke 10:27-28, He answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and..., 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "...²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
- The religious leader trying to justify himself, tried to find the loophole so what Jesus is commanding doesn't apply to him.
- What if Jesus followers looked for fewer loopholes and searched for more opportunities to give the Grace they have received?
- John 15:12-17, "This is My commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you...¹⁷ This is My command: Love each other."
- Our propensity to sacrifice for others is built on a sense of connection. Connections are built on proximity.
- Community isn't primarily focused on attendance; it's more concerned with becoming.

CLOSE

- Hebrews 10:23-25, "...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...but encourage one another..."
- You weren't made to wander lonely. You were made in relationship, to belong, to be loved, and to be known.
- You were made to connect with Him, and others.
- Challenge: Find your people. Build intentional relationships where you can know and be known.