



INTRO: From the beginning, God saw that it wasn't good for people to be alone. At its very heart, the human being is a communal being. We were made for relationships, made for friendships, made to work together, made to belong to a church of one heart and mind. There is a reason Jesus established His Church: to create a family for humans to belong and thrive. Church is more than the room where we worship. It is the community we do life with.

1. At its best, how is the Church a family?

READ Ecclesiastes 4:4-12

1. What does "chasing after the wind" mean to you? What would it apply to today?
2. In your opinion, for whom is the man toiling?
3. Which benefit of community seems to be most important to you? Why?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. Do you have one handful and peace, or two handfuls and toil?
2. The teacher points out meaningless work. For you, what makes work meaningful?
3. Is our school system more cooperative or combative? Our work system?
4. Who in your life has been a companion like the one we see in verses 9-12?
5. What does it take for you to trust a person enough to be a partner to them?
6. Where do we as a church need to grow to be a more cooperative community?

OUTRO: Two are better than one. A three-ply cord isn't easily broken. What statement could describe the benefit of a church of hundreds? Think of the moment at the end of each church service when we join hands like a family around a dinner table. This church is your family, filled with weird uncles, rambunctious nieces, and a grandpa who tells jokes that are just a little off. Just like any family, there can be hurt feelings or some frustration; but when things get hard, those hands you hold are there to hold you up. Do not let go, because they will not let go of you.

PRAY TOGETHER.

(Pray for a member of our family who is struggling and ask God for wisdom in how we can help.)