

**Hungering for God**  
**Hungering for Community**  
**Genesis 2:18-25, Acts 9:1-19, Colossians 3:12-17**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** We are hungry by nature, not just for food but for many things. One of them is community.

**I) God is for community**

**A) The one 'good' thing missing in Eden**

*Genesis 2:18: It is not good for the man to be alone*

"Man will not live until he loves, giving himself away to another on his own level" (D. Kidner)

**B) Meaning**

- 1) Something essentially good and right about our yearning for community
- 2) Don't be a community consumer

*Colossians 3.12: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion...*

**II) The sort of community God especially wants**

**A) Inclusive**

- 1) Paul's conversion: *Acts 9.15: ...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel*
  - A zealous community builder 'flipped' by Jesus

2) Meaning

- Our front door must be wide open

**B) Christ centered and Christ generated**

1) Jesus and Saul

*Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?*

Paul's advice on how to be God's new community (Colossians 3)

2) Meaning

Should we become a Jesus cult?

The society that most deeply matters

What alone binds us

**Take Away**

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Document the universal hunger for community, at multiple levels. Why are people so hungry for community? Why are you?
- 2) Read Genesis 2:18-25. What was not 'good'? What did God do to make things 'good'? Does this mean that we cannot be fully human unless we get married? If not, what is the deep message of the story?
- 3) Jesus would rather have us build community as disciples (a matter of obedience, even when it is difficult) than as consumers (a nice accessory that helps us). Why is this a better approach? What does the evidence in your life reveal about whether you are more of a disciple or more of a consumer?
- 4) Saul was a zealous community builder. What, according to Jesus, was wrong with his vision? What new vision did Jesus give him?
- 5) What does your practice as a Christian reveal about how exclusive and how inclusive you are? What can you do to be less like Saul (Paul before the Damascus road) and more like the apostle Paul?
- 6) Read over Colossians 3:12-17 and list the ways that Christ should influence how we build community. What one or two things might you do to make your fellowship experience more Christ centered?
- 7) Reflect on the following: "There is nothing wrong with belonging to a wide range of social groups. But the society that matters most deeply, the community that has God's eye in particular and will outlast every other community (including our families) is the church." How do your social choices show that you agree or disagree with this?