

**The Community of Saints**  
Bible Class for 05-17-20  
Immanuel, Seymour, Pastor Ralph Blumenberg  
+++

**Introduction:** *concerns about spreading a virus has virtually shut down in-person worship in favor of services on radio and live-streaming. We have learned that social media can be used for good purposes or not-so-good.*

What are some reasons behind the rise of social networks like Twitter and Facebook?

Why might some be more drawn to virtual associations than direct ones?

What do we know about loneliness in our culture?

What are some causes of loneliness?

**1. The Life of Fellowship**

“Aloneness” is an issue God addressed early in creation with Adam and Eve. Marriage, however, is not the only way God addresses it. Last week, we also talked about “The body of Christ,” the church.

How does our “koinonia,” or sharing in the body and blood of Christ, make our fellowship deeper than sociological or common interest?

How is God’s design for His church especially equipped to deal with the loneliness that is increasing in our culture?

Do you think people appreciate the value of the church’s fellowship?

**2. The Blessings of Fellowship**

Read **Philippians 3:10**

What kind of “fellowship” does Paul desire, and why?

**Romans 6:3-4**

What experience do Christians share in common?

How does this provide more depth to our fellowship than might be true of groups that just have a common interest in something?

What hope is there for when our relationships are strained?

### **Galatians 6:1-5**

What obligation do we have toward others?

What is the “law of Christ?”

How can you carry another’s burden, yet be responsible for your own load?

What does this imply about life in the church?

### **Ephesians 3:6**

How does this seem to be an impossible community?

What such dissimilar groups does God still put together today?

### **Galatians 3:26-28**

What are some “opposite” pairs that Paul mentions?

What are some “opposites” that are represented in our congregation?

Why is this a strength, not a weakness?

What implications does this have for outreach?

### **3. Reflection:**

How is the current emphasis in our culture on individuality both a challenge and an opportunity for the church?

**Next week: The “give and take” of community**