

## Consistent Community

### Fellowship within the Church

Community is not only about being together but growing towards health in all our relationships within the church. These relationships should be appropriate, supportive, selfless, rooted in humility, and they should provide avenues for grace-filled accountability. Our love for the local church should be so overwhelming that it extends to each individual that is part of it.

#### Indicators of Growth:

1. **Thoughtfulness** - considers and gives attention and care to others and their feelings first. ([Philippians 2:4](#))
2. **Friendship** - is the companionship and closeness we are to have with one another. It is the commitment to help form the character in others. This is not to be feared but embraced, even when it hurts! ([Proverbs 27:17](#))
3. **Obedience** - submitting to do what God requires of us. It is also recognizing the authority and direction from others, such as the pastor and church, so we can create winning situations. ([Deut. 13: 4](#); [Prov. 19:16](#); [John 14:14](#); [15:14](#); [2 Corinthians 10:5](#))
4. **Flexibility** - being open to others plans and ideas and willing to be instructed and challenged to change for the better. ([Colossians 3:2](#))
5. **Supportive** - coming alongside others, sharing our strength and courage in their afflictions and troubles. ([Galatians 6:2](#))
6. **Accountability** - supporting others as they struggle and challenging them to become more like Christ ([Galatians 6:1-5](#), [James 5:16](#))

#### Ideas for Action to Grow in Consistent Community:

1. Greet one new person each time you come to church.
2. Join or lead a Small Group.
3. Join or lead a Community Group.
4. Become part of a service team at Shoreline Church.
5. Share meals, fun, conversation, and life with others!

6. Invite people to your home.
7. Get engaged in mentoring relationships across age groups either through Shoreline's Women's Mentoring Ministry or other opportunities.
8. Join Shoreline's [What's For Dinner? Challenge](#) during the fall.
9. Go on a Shoreline Missions Trip!

## Resources for Growth in Consistent Community:

### Books/Articles

1. Bonhoeffer, Dietrich [\*Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian in Community\*](#)
2. Cloud, Dr. Henry & John Townsend [\*Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know\*](#)
3. Donahue, Bill [\*The Irresistible Community: An Invitation to Life\*](#)
4. Geiger, Eric "[How Community Combats Self-Centeredness](#)" Outreach Magazine, 26 February 2019
5. Getz, Gene [\*Building Up One Another\*](#)
6. Grenz, Stanley J. [\*Created for Community: Connecting Christian Belief with Christian Living\*](#)
7. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 7: The Seismic Shift from Rushing to Slowing" [\*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life\*](#)
8. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 10: The Seismic Shift from Burning to Building" [\*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life\*](#)
9. Harney, Kevin G. "Chapter 12: The Seismic Shift from Flattery to Truth-Telling" [\*Seismic Shifts: The Little Changes that Make a Big Difference in Your Life\*](#)
10. Lohfink, Gerhard [\*Jesus and Community\*](#)
11. Smith, James Bryan [\*The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love\*](#)

### Sermons/Podcasts/Bible Studies

1. "[Not Alone: A Study on Friendship](#)", RightNow Media
2. "[Metrics... Measurements that Matter: Consistent Community](#)" Shoreline Church, Pastor Kevin Harney, 18 March 2018