



# fairwaybaptistchurch

October 18, 2009

*In the Church, But Not of the Church*

We are the church **together**. The vision that God has given to Fairway, He has given to you.

**50** different times in 24 different contexts God's Word commands us about how we relate to "one another."

We were never meant to do life in Christ **alone**. We were never meant to walk with Jesus by ourselves.

*Acts 5:42*

Christianity to them was not a building for them to go to in order to worship God once a week then go about their lives, Christianity was a **way of life**.

- In the temple
- From house to house

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

The Greek word for "give up" is very strong. It means to **abandon**. Other translations use the word forsake.

The command of scripture is saying that community is not an **option**. We cannot walk away from each other. Do not abandon the community.

If you claim the name of Christ over your life and you are not living in or at least **pursuing** real, authentic, transparent, biblical community, then one of two things is going on:

- 1) Either you just didn't know that that was a **command** of scripture.
- 2) Or if you are doing it disobediently, that is called **sin**.

When Jesus birthed the New Testament church and those people started living it out, they were fiercely loyal to **God** and they were fiercely loyal to **one another**.

The battle we fight is that it is too possible to be **in** the church but not **of** the church. It is completely possible for you to come, soak it all up, even to try and grow, and to do it all completely **apart** from one another. That was never the intent of Christ.

Are we going to be an **institutionalized** church or are we going to fight for one another? Are we going to build community or not?

If each of us individually will say **I'm** going to pray for it and **I'm** going to fight for it, then at that point we become what God intended as the body of Christ. That's when we are able to continue moving to life in Christ one step at a time **together**.

We were never meant to do **life** in Christ alone.

Are you? Or are you pursuing the kind of transparent, loving, real **community** that God intends the church to be?