

Intro

Welcome to the Mountain Podcast. The Mountain Church is dedicated to helping people love Jesus and the people they encounter every day. Today, you will listen to our most recent Sunday sermons.

So sit back, relax, and let Jesus speak to you wherever you may be. And now, this week's sermon.

Samuel Goulet

Speaker 1 | 00:00

We're in a series right now called Design and Purpose. And today our focus is on the fact that we are made for community.

So if you guys want to turn with me in your Bibles, we're going to be all over the Word today. We're going to start in Ephesians 4. We're going to get to Matthew 26, 28. We're going to go to a few other places as well, Romans 12. And my invitation for you today is to really be able to learn and grow in your understanding of not only the fact that we were made for community, but. What that community expression really looks like in Jesus. And so to understand that today, the visual or the vision scripturally that we're going to be drawing from is that we're a part of one body. And that in that body, the blood of Jesus needs to flow. And so when you come to think about what it looks like to be a part of a church community or church family, the God vision for that thing is a place where the blood of Jesus flows freely into our personal life and into others as well. Ephesians 4, 6 gets us into a place of understanding that this is supposed to flow in us and through us. It's not supposed to stop with us. In Ephesians 4, 6, this is how it paints the picture for us. It goes, one God. And Father of all. Who is over all and through all and in all. And so we see that as a church family, first of all, that, Heavenly Father is over all of it. And there is an authority for Heavenly Father that is unique to Him. We yield our life as a church family to our Heavenly Father. He's in charge. We shouldn't mince words about that. We shouldn't try and kind of like cloak that idea that this is a family that is in submission to Heavenly Father. And that is the design. That is the foundational design of a church family is that we yield to the way of Heavenly Father and we forfeit our way in order for us to accept the way of Heavenly Father in our life.

So He's Father of all. Who is over all and through all and in all.

So This isn't supposed to stop with you, but as we are sons and daughters with God, that actually means something for how we treat other people. It means something for how we do relationship. It means something for how we do marriage. It means something for how we do forgiveness. It means something for how we do communication. That as Father is in us, He

needs to move through us. And the picture that we're drawing from today for this is that the blood of Jesus as a part of this one body in Christ needs to flow in us and through us to the other parts of this church family and to this body. And if we want to have a real clear scriptural reference for this body of Christ, let's go to Romans 12, 1 through 10. But it's in 1 Corinthians 12 through 31. Both of them are fantastic and really amazing and are going to give us a picture of what this membership looks like, what this belongingness in this community looks like. Because I think we should probably recognize at this point that doing community. Just like the way the world does, community isn't sufficient. That we can come together and we could do community the world the way the world does community but Really, the call on our life and what will produce righteousness and good fruit in this house and in this church family and the family at large is if we're actually engaging in church family the way God has intended for us to engage in church families. There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end leads to death, and that's not the way of community that we want to engage in. And so there is a proper way in this thing that the Father sets out in proper order for us. And in 1 and 2, I covered last week, so we're going to start in verse 3. And it says, "For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment. Each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. The doorway to great community, the doorway to great connection and repair of connection. Is a really humble path. And the posture of humility is going to be the best posture for great connection and great relationship and community. And this is what our first call to order is here as it starts to set us into talking about the body of Christ. As it sets an order like, hey, listen, you can't be up here with your mentality of self, but you actually need to bring it into proper alignment and recognize the self. Properly. And there needs to be a soberness and a humility that comes upon us as we think of ourselves and others so that we're seeing rightly and we're seeing true and we don't have a distorted perspective that is tainted by pride and arrogance. Pride and arrogance doesn't do community or relationship very well. Have you noticed this in yourself or in others? Pride and arrogance does not build good family. It does not build good connection. Pride relies on self, defends self, and that's its main objective. Can you see this in your own life? Pride is a nasty booger. It will undermine all of the holy community designs that God has for us. We cannot subscribe to pride. We cannot accept pride in our life. Because the outset, the doorway to great community and relationship. Is humility. It's sober thinking. It's bringing that elevated way of thinking about self, and it's bringing it into a sober place with the Lord and not thinking too highly of self. It's a really good foundation to start from, and in verse 4 it says, For as in one body we have many members, And the members do not all have the same function.

So we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them. Now before we get into the itemization of some of those gifts and the qualification of those, let us first understand that unity is not uniformity. This is a key understanding for us, because if we think that unity is based on uniformity, then we will only have one gift. And one type in this body and in this church family.

But that's not how we achieve unity. We achieve unity in Christ, and there are many members of this body of Christ that all of us comprise the body of Christ when we are yielded to Christ. And when we have taken our place in that body, then there is great unity that even though the hand is different than the eye, there is a harmony of the parts as we find unity in the body of Christ.

So again, unity is not achieved through uniformity. It's not achieved through a uniformity of gifts. It's not achieved through a uniformity of race or personality type. It's not achieved through a uniformity of height or age. None of these things should define community or church family. And yet. As a humanity, we'll see oftentimes we try and create community, even in church, through these uniformity ways. We start getting churches that are very singularly gifted or that are very singularly age demographic based or that are very singularly race based or very singularly based. But the design with God is that unity is not achieved through uniformity, but it's achieved by all of us being a part of the body of Christ.

Right? Loom! If your comfort zone is that you only like hanging out with people that are like you, talk like you, act like you, and think like you, it's time for you to start getting uncomfortable. And hanging out with people that are different in Christ. That are graced different, that are built different. Start hanging around with those gifts in God that are a little bit irritating to you with where you're at right now in your maturity. Start hanging around with those gifts in Christ that provoke you. I know how we like to kill off the provokers around us. We like to kill off those people sometimes because they make us a little uncomfortable. And they start digging their hands under our ribs so that we get moving a little bit, you know? And we love ourselves a little bit of an edifier, an encourager, somebody who's gonna hug us and tell us we're okay. But you need somebody that's going to literally light a fire under your butt and say, it's time for you to get up out of Egypt. It's time for you to get out of the desert. And it's time for you to go to the places that God's called you. And they're going to make you uncomfortable. Remember that 10 of the 12 spies weren't into the promised land.

Right? God's going to call you to places that are going to make you uncomfortable and that are going to, factually speaking, be unpopular. The gig? Comfortable being uncomfortable with different gifted people. When that evangelist makes you uncomfortable because he's calling you outside or she's calling you outside the four walls, get comfortable with it. When that gift of healing makes you uncomfortable because they invite you to pray for somebody for physical healing and it's completely outside of your control and so it makes you uncomfortable, get comfortable with that discomfort. This is the very idea of us being a part of the body of Christ, is that we don't make our communities and our unity based on us. But we base it on the entire range of who Jesus is. He's the father.

Yeah, there you go. He's the father of all, in all, through all.

So it's not just based on how I'm built. It's based on how God's built all of us and designed all of us to play this function. And there's a reason why I'm talking about this for community, right? It's because it's so easy for us in this place to get very comfortable with singular. Or unity based on us and how we're built.

So it goes in to start talking about it. Let us use them. If prophecy in proportion to our faith, if service in our serving, the one who teaches in his teaching, the one who exhorts in his exhortation, the one who contributes in generosity, the one who leads with zeal meaning great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective. The one who does acts of mercy with cheerfulness. Let us let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Hey, isn't this cool? All of a sudden, as we're talking about being part of one body, and there's many different members that are all part of this one body, it begins to coach us and edify us in the things that we need to have a part of this community and body for us to maintain unity in Jesus. Because there is a way. That even while we're in the body of Christ, we can start to have some sickness kick in. There is a way that if we don't allow the blood of Jesus to flow in us and through us, that we can have some problems start to stir up in community. And I want to bring you to this understanding of how the blood of Jesus works in our life and how it's supposed to work through our life as well.

So I'm going to bring us to 1st Matthew 26:28 and it says, This is my blood of the covenant. Which is poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Now, this is really good because in community, 100% sin's going to show up. 100% sin's going to show up in this house. 100% it's going to show up in our families. It's going to show up in our relationships. Sin will show up.

So since it's going to show up, we need to have a plan for how we're going to deal with the sins. Now, there are some powerful things about the blood of Jesus that we are going to see here, and one of its great things is it's capable of overcoming sin. It's capable of overcoming sin, so we need to understand in our community build the power of the blood of Jesus, not only for our own life, but for the lives around us. It's not good for us to just be recipients of the grace of God. We need to be givers of the grace of God. It's important that we receive the blood of Jesus fully and that we give the fullness of the blood of Jesus to others as well. It's not good for us to block up the blood flow in this body. Bad things happen when we block blood flow. Which brings me to my first point. I did some research on blood flow and its significance in the body. Turns out blood flowing in the body is actually really important. Did you know this? It's significant. I found this out when I researched it. Now here's what it says about blood flow. Here's why it's vital and significant. Blood flow, circulation, is how your body delivers oxygen and nutrients to tissues. And it removes waste products like carbon dioxide and lactic acid. Okay, so if we want to know what the blood of Jesus does in our life as we're going to study out here It does two things one it brings life into it removes waste. What's the waste? Unforgiveness. Hardness of heart. What's

the waste? Bitterness. What's the waste? It's unbelief. What stopped the Israelites from walking in the promised land was hardened hearts, unbelief. The blood of Jesus removes waste, it brings life. And life more abundant. It does these two things at one time. We cannot stop the flow of blood in this body or else issues will start to pick up. Those issues will get dramatic. They'll have massive effect on our body. They'll have massive effect on our relationships. They'll have effect on everything we're trying to do. We cannot be a body only in name, we must be a body in function as well, which means the blood of Jesus needs to flow freely in this body. Amen. Circulation of the nature of Jesus, of the character of Jesus, must flow freely. Reliance on self and flesh will actually be the very thing that causes decay and death in the body. We must rely on the way of Jesus to set in order how we do community work Entirely. Not mostly. No shred or evidence of former self should have any rule or reign in our current expression. We must make extinct all of the non-Jesus elements in our community expression. Only one blood. To dictate how a community and how a church family operates. One blood. Which means this defies and this challenges us the family lines you've come from, You might have picked up a few generations of community dysfunctions. And maybe it shows up in your life like isolation and independence. Find those in the gospel for me, you will not find them.

So maybe you picked those up from your family. Maybe you picked up. Patterns of unforgiveness to protect yourself from threats. Not in the Bible, not of Jesus. It's time for you to walk away from those generational curses. Maybe you picked up some kind of thing from some kind of someone somewhere along the line. Maybe it wasn't generational. Maybe it was a coach or a teacher. Maybe it was somebody else in your life that did damage to you, and you've allowed your relationship to others and community to be dictated by how somebody treated you in your past. It's time to walk away from your pain and trauma defining how you do community. I say quite often, do not let man rob what you're supposed to have with God. Too often we let the pain and the abuse and the hurt of people destroy our relationship with God. We need not let it be so.

The blood of Jesus is so powerful. Here's a couple of things that it does. 1 Peter 1.19 says... Believers are redeemed. With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. Isn't this cool? It doesn't say... Those who are lost and unbelievers. Are redeemed. It says believers are redeemed. That's right. That's most of everybody in this place. Everybody had an opportunity today for sure. Everybody in this place is redeemed by the application of the blood of Jesus. What does community look like? It looks like a very powerful advocacy for us to give room to people to be redeemed in community and in relationships. I've been a pastor for some time. And you know what I have found community struggles to do at large? Is give people an opportunity to change. The pathway of redemption and reconciliation is a part of what the blood of Jesus does in our life. It makes a new way for people. It gives opportunity for people. In Ephesians 1, 7, it says, in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses. See, community in the world's design gets really good at saying, okay, Becky over

there is a liar, Jimmy over there is a thief, so we don't go and we don't put valuable things around Jimmy, and we don't trust anything Becky says. And what's the timeline on that?

Well, it's forever. It's forever! Because you don't want to get burned, you know? Burn me once, shame on you. Burn me twice, shame on me, right? Shame on me. And so we start creating these worldly terms for how we do community. And I'm like, show me in the Bible. Jesus! I know it sounds logical and rational to isolate yourself into a cave and trust no one ever again. Because who knows who's bad? Who knows who's going to hurt? We don't know. The way of love is not safe. The way of Jesus is not comfortable. It's uncomfortable. The way of Jesus in his lifetime here on earth had him betrayed by two. His primary disciples Judas and Peter. Judas betrayed him with a kiss. How devastating is that? Imagine that right like Jesus is always kind of If he was just acting like the world, he would never want to be kissed again. Whoa, what's going on? You're kissing? Are you trying to be Judas? Association could destroy that place of intimacy if we think like the world. He walks like a duck, acts like a duck, must be a duck.

You see, there's a way that our world thinks, and then there's a way that God calls us to. And the way of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, it does community different. It does. Hurt. Different. We must. Build our communities in a one-body way. Blood of Jesus flowing way. Or else we're just going to be like the world that we call people out of. But if we build our communities in the face and the image of this world, what are we calling them out of? Just a worldly community by a different name. It's the way everlasting. And yes, it's challenging. Yes, it's difficult. Yes, it's uncomfortable. But there is a redemptive narrative and there is a forgiveness narrative too. In Jesus and in the blood of Jesus that is extremely potent. It's extremely important to relationships changes our communities, We start forgiving in a very active, proactive way. The terms of love and forgiveness... The blood of Jesus or unconditional. You just keep forgiving. Forgiving. Forgiving. When do you get the right to not forgive in Jesus? You don't. I don't. When do you get the right to remove love?

Well, in citizenship with Jesus, in the walk with Jesus, there is no right. And this is according to the standard of Jesus, not the standard of a person.

Right? We love and we forgive because that's the way of Jesus. Now, I should say, and this is probably important to kind of always communicate. When we're talking about unconditional love and forgiveness, is that trust is not the same thing as love and forgiveness. Trust is defined based on wisdom. Instead of Jesus that he did not entrust himself to them because he knew what was in their hearts and So discernment and wisdom should have an effect on the way you trust. This is a totally different topic then the standard of love and forgiveness... Which needs to be applied lavishly and without conditions. Because this is how God has ordained it. And there's a reason why we really have to understand this is because for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

So we understand that in an imperfect scenario right now, us human beings are very imperfect and we tend to sin here and there. In this environment, we need the skill in community of eradicating sin. And the skill of eradicating sin is love and forgiveness.

So there's some things that the body needs the blood for. It's the removal of waste. It's the removal of unforgiveness. It needs to take place in the blood of Jesus speaks a greater thing to us. It beckons to us. It challenges us. It causes us to remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

So how are we judging and how are we assassinating people? In a modern sense based on the sins they're committing to us. I want to tell you about a couple of things that take place when the blood stops flowing. As you can imagine, not good things happen. At large, when circulation is interrupted due to injury, blockage, clot, or extreme cold. The area begins to die. Because it's cut off from oxygen and nutrients. The brain is the most sensitive organ when it comes to this. Brain cells begin to die within three to five minutes without oxygen. Three to five minutes, you might say to yourself, I'm just stopping the flow of the blood of Jesus for a day or two. A week later, A month. I'm just going to bed on my anger one night. I'm just holding on to and I'm harboring unforgiveness and bitterness just for a couple days. And just understand what's happening to your thought processes when you stop the flow of blood of Jesus in your life. Your thoughts begin to operate in decay and death. They cease to operate in the life of Jesus because the blood of Jesus is no longer being applied to our brains. And we start to think like death and decay.

So our decisions and our ideas produced from those thoughts, our actions produced from those thoughts will be actions of death and decay. Three to five minutes, that's all it takes for the brain to start to die without blood. Three to five minutes. For the mind of Christ that has been being cultivated inside of you starts to die. When you disconnect yourself from the flow of blood. The heart tissue starts to die after 15 to 30 minutes of blocked blood flow. 15 to 30 minutes. Three to five minutes. We're talking about these time frames that are not that significant. Blood stops flowing and death and decay follows. You can see the death and decay starts to follow in relationships. I'm gonna do it. You can see it starts to death and decay connection with people. You can see it happen in marriages. You can see it happen in friendships. You can see it happen in the workplace. And it doesn't take a whole lot. It just takes a little bit of an allowance of unforgiveness, a little bit of allowance of pride and self-righteousness. It just takes a little bit of an allowance of these things, and all of a sudden you start to feel connection decayed. Decayed. Decay. Decay. And at some point you look back and you go, I don't even really feel a connection anymore. I think this is probably over. Now when you've given... When you've cut yourself off and your relationships off from the flow of the blood of Christ. Death and decay will follow. But I want to encourage you that even if you find yourself in this place, we actually serve a God of resurrection. We serve a God of resurrection, so you can pray in the power of

resurrection. First and foremost, you can say, God, become alive in me again. Resurrect inside of me again, God. I yield myself to the blood of Christ, and I forfeit my right for pride. I forfeit my right for arrogance and unforgiveness and bitterness. I forfeit my right for all of these things. First of all, I submit myself to the flow of the blood of Christ in my life. You are my Father, and I ask you to live inside of me and operate through me. And that might be really inconvenient to my objectives, my selfish objectives. But now this is where I die to self and become alive in Christ. I want to invite you to really recognize that if you do not have any connection to with any brother or sister in Christ. And you're a solo, independent, operating, hiding from community for years and decades, that this is actually not just a problem with you and people, but it's actually a problem between you and God. When we receive the love of God in our life, it moves us to love others really well. I would propose to you that if you don't have connection in community, if you don't have a love for people in community, if you're not serving and loving and laying your life down for others, I would propose to you that the blood has stopped flowing in your life. You might say to me, isn't it possible for me to just be in relationship with God and that's it? Let's go to John 15. Visit all throughout the gospel and you'll see that to be in loving relationship with God. Is to be in loving relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ. We'll be known by our love. As disciples, we will love. This is just the evidence of being in relationship with God is that we love well. We forgive well. Because we are cognizant and aware that God has forgiven us and he loved us really well. Man, that changes the way we interact in community, right? That changes the way we... Judge others? And all of a sudden you're like, I'm not so sure I can be so quick to judge anymore. Because I recognize the fallibility of my life. I recognize my error. I recognize my disposition. I recognize these places. And honestly, I'm pretty convinced at this point the only good things in me are the things that God's put in me.

So how could I judge somebody else from that elite position when it's not even mine? Christ in me the hope of glory. Not me and me, the hope of glory. Today, I wanted to talk about community. I wanted to talk about what it looks like for us to have humility, and forgiveness. These two elements These two ingredients. Their house. How the blood of Christ thrives in our life. What the blood does to us is what we need to allow the blood to do to others through us. Christ needs to flow in our life. It's time to surrender every place of hardness of heart. It's time for us to surrender every place of arrogance and pride. It's time for us to surrender every place of unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment. And judgment.

1 John 1.7 says, But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, We have fellowship with one another. And the blood of Jesus Christ, his son, cleanses us from all sin. In Ephesians, when it talks about... Husbands loving their wives. It talks about them praying and cleansing them in the word. This is how the blood of Christ flows in us and through us. It cleanses us of all unrighteousness, and it leads us to pray for others to be cleansed as well. It's not based on our act and or our power that people get cleansed, but we can pray for it to take place.

So when you see somebody in sin in your life, pray that they'd be cleansed by the Holy Spirit. When you see somebody in a brother and sister who's in sin, go to them in spirit of gentleness to recover them. This is how God operates in community. As he exercises his blood towards us and his blood towards others, and we begin to advocate and intercede and pray and stand in the gap.

So when somebody else is weak, we're standing in the gap and we're praying. When somebody else is failing to walk with the Lord, we start to provoke, we start to encourage, we start to carry burdens with one another. This is what a prayer life looks like. This is what community is meant to be. It was meant to come along, and it was meant to subsidize places of deficit so that we could walk with the Lord greater together than we could individually. Really? I wanted to end today with our prayer team. If our prayer team can come forward. Praying and if our worship team can come forward too. I wanted to end this day in prayer together. And our team of prayer people. Folks. Friends. We're going to be here to pray with you. But as we have fellowship with one another, we begin to plead the blood of Jesus over each other's lives. We begin to pray the nature of Jesus over each other's life. And it's a really beautiful partnership. It's one that in my early faith in Christianity, I was like, I think we could be just Christians on an island by ourselves. And I proposed this idea in a paper one time. I was like, I think you could do it all on your own. I was young, guys. And throughout the decades, I've actually really grown to Absolutely love. Love the portion and the part that brothers and sisters in Christ bring to my life and to my family. And not only do I love it, But I've actually come to this humble place of recognizing, like, I really actually need it. That's a beautiful thing. And I want to encourage you to no longer live your life in isolation and independence. But answer the call of God in humility and love. To find yourself in relationships and in love with community. - Towards community. I want to invite you to stand with me today. As we finish this time.

At 1:30 we're baptizing folks. That's so fun. If you want to get baptized and you haven't signed up yet, I'm telling you right now, it's not too late. We might run out of pizza, but that's okay.

It's not about the pizza anyways, right? Yes.

Just really love you so much. And I can tell you every person up here Ready to pray with you. They love you too. They have a real passion to serve. Real passion to pray. It's time for you to get called out of this isolated wilderness. It's time for you to hear the call of courageous love and community. It's time for you to hear the Holy Spirit beckoning you to service, beckoning you to washing people's feet, beckoning you to radical forgiveness. It's time for us to hear the call of intercession for those. Around us who are falling short and failing to realize breakthrough with the Lord, rather than sitting in a seat of judgment. Believe that to be a really important point for this service specifically I see just a I Just a powerful invitation to intercession in this house. Those that would really see the call to pray for those who are struggling, to pray for those who need breakthrough, those who need healing, those who need help overcoming. If you're in this

place and you want to... Respond to that call. You feel the call of God on your life to intercede. I want you to lay your hand on your heart right now and just ask God to lead you in intercession. Give him permission to give you burdens spiritually for those around you. God, you have permission to burden my heart. Spiritually for those that you have put in my life for me to pray and carry burdens with them, Lord. It's not an inconvenience to my life that I decline and I don't want to be a part of, but Father, I give you permission. Await me with intercession, God. At any given point while I'm praying for the whole house too, I just want to invite you to come and receive prayer. We want to pray with you. We want to partner with you. And we'll be up here for a little bit, for a little while, just praying and partnering with community. Partnering with community. You are made for community. You are made for a worship of the Lord. You are made to be in a loving relationship with people around you to serve and to love and to pray and to intercede. And as we are opening it up for you to be individually ministered to or as families ministered to, I want to pray for the full body as well. And God, I pray that the blood of Jesus would flow in our lives. The word says in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. And right now I declare that over each and every one of us right now in Jesus' name. A complete eradication of the curse of sin in all of our lives, God, in our families, in our marriages, Lord. We pray that the back and the spine of sin, Lord, and corrupt character would be broken in our families and in our marriages, God. In Jesus' name. And God, we say yes to forgiveness. We say yes to the roots of bitterness being pulled out in Jesus' name. For some of you might actually not really understand what forgiveness is all about. Maybe you thought, okay, I said it out loud one time. But I want to invite you to be free from all of the effects of sin in your life. First and foremost, forgiveness and choosing forgiveness is critical. But I want to invite you to be free from maybe the bitterness or hardness of heart that has been cultivated as a result of that sin done towards you. God, we give you our hearts, we give you our souls, Lord. We give up our right to hold on to unforgiveness and bitterness. In Jesus name. We're here to pray with you guys. We love you.

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