



New International Version is used for questions

1. In your life, were you raised believing that you needed to be totally self-reliant and not depend on others to succeed or were you taught you needed the help of others? How has that affected your life? How has it affected you as a Christian? How does God want us to approach this idea in the church? Is this hard or easy for you?
2. What four facts that Pastor Rick mentioned show that living in reliance on each other was God's original purpose and not just added later because we are sinners and needed the help? So what does that mean if we are the self-reliant type of person? Has being part of a small group helped you to learn to accept the help of others?
3. Read Acts 2:44-47. We do not find any instruction in scripture of how the church was to be organized in the New Testament other than to have elders and deacons, yet this is what happened in the first church. Why do you think it turned out this way? What are the two realities Pastor Rick said were true about the early church?
4. Why is it important for us as humans to have a good family life? In the family you grew up in, what were some of the good and bad things that you experienced as part of your family? How has that affected you good or bad? What are the five reasons Pastor Rick gave that show we need to be an active part of a church family? Of these, which ones have you experienced in your life? Which ones have been the most beneficial to you?
5. Pastor Rick talked about the idea that it is far easier for him to give love than receive love, do you find this to be true for you? Why do you think this is true for many people? Share an example of when you received love from a fellow Christian. Share an example of how you gave love to a fellow Christian. When is the most important time to be willing to receive love?
6. Pastor Rick named three things we cannot learn alone, what were they? What are some other things that we cannot learn alone? What then would be the result if I choose not to become connected with other Christians?

- made to need each other. Even the Lone Ranger was not alone, he had Tonto.
2. *The four facts were: a. God created marriage before the fall and said man should not be alone; b. God saw Adam by himself and said "something's missing". c. Isolation was not caused by sin, when Adam was alone God said "this is not good"; d. Community is part of God's original design for people. If you are the self-reliant type and do not have community, you are not whole or complete and will not accomplish all God would want you to.*
 3. *The reason the church formed the way it did in Acts was because you had a bunch of people who loved each other, wanted to be with each other, and that was the best way for them to be able to be together. The two realities were: a. The original church was not about attending services, it was about being together; and b. Community creates an environment where people thrive together.*
 4. *It is only in a good family that kids develop to their full potential without psychological scars to overcome later in life. The five reasons were: a. It is what identifies you as a true believer; b. It frees you from self-centered isolation; c. It builds your spiritual muscle, it promotes healthy growth; d. You are needed for the body of Christ to function correctly; and e. It keeps you from falling back into sinful behavior.*
 5. *The most important time in which you need to be willing to accept love from others is when you are struggling with something in your life and we all struggle with something in our lives. If you have not established the habit of allowing people to show you love, then when you struggle you will not seek help from others but think you can handle it yourself, which you cannot.*
 6. *The three things we cannot learn alone are a. patience; b. forgiveness; and c. grace. If we are not connected with other believers, then we will never be able to be obedient to everything Christ wants us to do because we can only learn many things from other people, so we will not be able to learn those things.*
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