

**Reflection**

**Facet 12**

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## FACET - 12

### **Corporate Spiritually: Encouragement, Accountability, and Worship.**

We come to faith as individuals, but we grow in community. This facet discusses the need for community, challenges and creators of community, the nature and purpose of the church, soul care, servant leadership, accountability, and renewal.

#### The Need for Community

Corporate spiritually focuses on the dynamics of life together in the Spirit as an essential source of spiritual health and maturity. Spiritual formation involves both personal and corporate dimensions, and the Scriptures provide strong foundations for community. Ministry should flow out of both solitude and community, but there are a number of challenges to community in our culture.

**"There is one body, and one Spirit, and one hope, to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism. And there is only one God and Father of all, who is the Lord of all, who works through all and is in all". Ephesians 4:4-6**

A Christian community is not a cluster of people. The church is not just a disjointed crowd of people attending public programs together. Luke tells us that communion is one of the main characteristics of the community of origins: "And they continued in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship ..." - Acts 2:42. The apostle Paul writing to the Ephesians will give us at least eight elements, around which the Christian community is structured. In the text, Paul says,

"There is one body, and one Spirit, and one hope, to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism.

We need to recover the sense of community in the church of Christ. Not only for our benefit, but above all for the mission. Since mission is essential to the community, and the community essential to mission.

### The Nature and Purpose of the Church

A biblical approach to the nature of the church looks at seven purposes of the church: corporate love and compassion; corporate identity and purpose; corporate nurture and service; corporate discernment; corporate forgiveness and reconciliation; corporate authority and submission; and corporate worship and prayer.

**"To make disciples who are followers of Him who seek in their lives to resemble Him". Romans 8:29-30**

This is what Jesus did in his ministry here on earth. He came into the world, became involved with people, led them to a commitment to God, and taught them. This process that He did with His own from that moment on should be reproduced in the lives of others through the disciples of Christ.

Therefore, our life here on earth should reflect this divine purpose. Our churches should evaluate their practices and ask how we have fulfilled this commission. I believe that Jesus left in

his ministry recorded in the pages of the Gospels various guidelines and practical examples of how we can and must fulfill this mission ordained by him to his Church.

### Soul Care, Leadership, Accountability, and Renewal

Looks the soul-care spectrum from spiritual friendship to spiritual guidance to spiritual mentoring to spiritual direction and considers the relationship among clinical counseling, pastoral counseling, and soul-care ministries. It also has a word on inner healing, servant leadership, accountability, renewal, and the future of community.

The practice and value of counsel is celebrated throughout the Bible. Far from being an exclusive practice among God's people, the Bible realizes that in the secular world, kings surrounded themselves with wise men, magicians, enchanters, and sorcerers as counselors (**Genesis 41:12, Daniel 2: 2**). As you can see, counsel and the practice of counseling were common regardless of character and nature.

As for the collective and private practice of counseling, this is also easy to see as we read the pages of the New Testament. Jesus, for example, exhorted people both collectively, publicly and privately. His public speeches and teachings, both for the general public (**Mt. 5: 7**) and for the group of the apostles (**Mark 4: 10-20, 9: 28,29**), are full of counsel. Nicodemus, however, was counseled privately when he sought to know Jesus (**John 3: 1-15**).

No member is free from the responsibility of participating in the building up of the body of Christ. In addition to the spiritual gifts that democratize and distribute work among all

members of the church, there are Christian duties, that is, even if one does not have a certain gift to be exercised especially, each one must be open to be used by the Holy Spirit in any situation, even if exceptionally, to advise someone who needs help.