

**Facet 12:**  
**Corporate Spiritually**

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In Genesis 2:18 it states, The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." In Genesis 1, God had repeatedly said that everything was "good." In Genesis 2, God examines his work, but after saying everything was good, He then notices that something is "not good so" after all. God recognizes, "It's not good that man should be alone" This statement points out what is the foundation of human nature and human flourishing, humans are benevolent creatures who prosper in intimate relationships with others. By this one can surmise that God desires for us to be in community with one another. In Boa's Facet 12, we see the influence of corporate spirituality; through the need for community, the purpose and nature of the church, and accountability.

During the process of spiritual growth, faith is a decision made by an individual, but as maturity takes place, growth in a community begins, and this community aids in spiritual growth. Since we are God's people, created in his likeness, we were designed for fellowship. As the community and members make Jesus number one and display love for Christ amongst the members of the community and the greater community of the world, authentic Christlikeness occurs. Boa notes that "conversion to Christ and to the cross should lead to conversion to community." Being committed to a community of believers means that we minister and serve; trust, love and accept. These words will be of grave importance when trouble arises within the community like it often will. Difficulty issues within a community aren't new, it is true today, just as it was back in the Biblical days.

One example was the church of Corinth which had members who struggled with pride, jealousy, complaining, selfishness, and much more. These are things that cause division among the community; however, they are healed by God. He created the community, and he can heal the community. The Bible defines the church as "the bride of Christ," the temple of the Holy Spirit

and members of God's family. This living breathing organism center focus of worship is God, and responsibility is to each other and to bring others into the community. For a Christian community to function as the bride of Christ, Christ must be the focus, not the community.

As a member of the church, believers receive corporate love and compassion, identity, purpose, growth, spiritual friendship, guidance, mentoring, direction, inner healing and a family. Through this family, accountability is essential to have growth and to develop. The community is vital for spiritual growth. No one can make it through this life alone, and God never designed us to make it through life alone. Community with other believers is a part God's plan and is a necessary part of growth as disciples. From the foundation of the world, God created us to be in fellowship with each other; therefore, how we love in the body of Christ signifies how connected we are to Christ, as a reflection of how linked we are to one another. Within a church community, we must be able to fulfill the command of loving one, then to love the world. By loving one another and the world, displays the greatest representation of who Christ truly is.

## Bibliography

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His image: biblical and practical approaches to spiritual formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.