

Book Reflection on Facet 12: Corporate Spirituality: The Need for Community.

For: Dr. Brian Hodges and Class-mates

We've learned we have yet to lose our lives so that we might learn how to live in and through Him. Kenneth Boa's facets of Spirituality centers on Jesus and our personal walk with Him. In one of our previous facets, we learned that we are all on a journey to heaven where our ultimate goal is to reign with our Father in Heaven. The more we realize that we are allies on this journey rather than independent agents, the more clearly we will see that personal spiritual growth does not take place in a relational vacuum. Our personal life together with Jesus should both support and be fed by our corporate life. Each of us needs periods of solitude and community. We come to faith as individuals, but we grow in community. The impoverished without it, and the benefits far exceed the drawbacks. In other words, no man stands alone, and it takes a village. Kingdom living is about loving and serving God and others, and it is most clearly noted in the eight Beatitudes that introduce Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12).

As we know the church community has never been without issues, there are those who are spiritual minded and others who come to be controllers, to be seen, manipulators, Hollywood models and whatever else. Few of these people ever realize the corporate damage they inflict, because it is easy to justify in today's society manipulative behavior by giving it a Spiritual veneer of concern for the best interest of the group. Dr. Boa compared many of our churches of today with the church at Corinth; we see evidence of immorality, idolatry, pride, complaining, selfishness and doctrinal error. We hear many feel good sermons being preached striving to justify our interests rather than the interests of Jesus. While churchmen focus on building the institution, Christ-centered people focus on loving Christ and building the body of believers.

We are living in a world today that 2 Timothy 3:1, helps me put this in perspective, or understand "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come". I have no reservation at all to say that those times are here. The church must be the catalyst for all the ills that are facing the body of Christ and the church-goers. Employment is on the rise, men are lovers of themselves, and no longer do we hold those in authority accountable for their actions. Many people going to church are struggling to make ends meet and believers are not exempt from trials of this world. The bonds of the church have to come from within the walls to the outside

communities in which they serve to help address some of these ills. Effective prayer and the Word of God, with a concern out-reach program will win a community.

Kenneth Boa, states that “the New Testament frequently underscores the importance of unity among brothers and sisters in Christ”. The church is to be a community of unity within diversity. The more we give ourselves to Jesus, the greater our capacity to seek the interests of others above our own. One of the primary reasons for church is for believers to assemble together in which they can mutually encourage and edify one another through the exercise of the spiritual gifts that have been given to the body. At any point, a believer can walk in the power and pursuits of the flesh, or in the power and purpose of the Spirit. For God’s redemptive plan is to restore relationships on every level. In Facet 12, we can go back and tie in the one that deals with us becoming Disciples of Christ.