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**Caring at Coast Hills**

**Coast Hills Community Church**

**January 18, 2015**

**Introduction**

We were made to flourish – God’s intent is to flourish

We were created to care and be cared for. Basis of relationships.

We measure how am I being cared for? If I am not being cared for then I don’t care.

I don’t care is when flourishing diminishes. Anti-flourishing sets in.

Our hearts were made to care and be cared for.

Caring is the foundation for relationships.

Jesus cares – he flourished.

**Jesus cared so much about me that he gave his life for me**

**John 15:13 “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”**

Everything that motivated everything about Jesus’s mission and vision is his care for us.

It’s not just a care bear….laid down his life for us.

You cared that much about me Jesus? Wow…..I want to learn how to care.

I may not jump to giving up my life for someone…..let’s not set the bar too high.

Our goal is to be like Jesus.

I want to be like Jesus.

**We flourish when we discover how to care**

1. **We discover how to care through reading and practicing the “each other’s” in the Bible.**

**John 15:12-13 “This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”**

There are 30 “one anothers” in scripture that are a “How to Care Manual”

13 love one anothers

30 – 50 of them. Many seem opposite from each other

It’s a fine art. Caring for Dummies. When we are in relationship

Flourish with the “one anothers”

Commands that are really at heart of being at the front of the line of following Jesus

**1 Peter 1:22 …show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.**

**Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with each other. …**

**Romans 15:14 …teach each other ….**

**James 4:11 don’t speak evil against each other …**

**Ephesians 4:32 …be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**

Hospitality is when we have a mess and someone has a need and we say come on over. Different from entertaining. It’s good we clean up the house….not impressing people but serving people.

1. **We can truly care for those we genuinely know**

For 1900 years we went to church with people we saw every day. There was no mobility. Today we go to church with relative strangers since we have cars. The churches were not very big.

Each of our kids got a car because I was sick of chauffer.

We went to not the closest but the thing we think is best. So we no longer go to the mom a pop shop. They have what we perceive to be best.

The neighborhood has been killed by the auto.

We are small but we have moved beyond the neighborhood idea. The vast majority – not just mega but all are different than what people had back for 1900 years.

Every upside comes with an unintended down side.

Anything beyond a house church size.

Church becomes something we go to rather than something we are. Place and program

Ecclesia means an assembly of people. My church is the one I go to not the one I am.

Pep talk and a concert.

Private Relationship. I am no longer under this book or these people. That is great for most people but not me because I have peace about it. We make God in our image rather than making it about HIS image.

We have nowhere to live out the one anothers of scripture. There are between 30 and 55 one anothers.

We all have the church answers. How are you doing? Fine (none of your business) because we don’t know if we can trust them. Why would you open up?

If we can’t practice the one anothers then we can’t practice Christianity.

Mature person is a person who is type a Christian. Person who knows how to do devotions and knows theology

Front of the line Christian has most to do with how we interact with each other

Most of the commands are about how we treat each other.

Try to care for people in other countries…..mess it up

Go to church or being the church

Jesus had care steroids…he saw the multitudes and wept. Sheep without a shepherd.

Relationship – we can genuinely know

**Romans 12:10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.**

When you are in a group you will have people around you who annoy you. You will learn to have mercy.

There will be EGRS – you can stay away from them. In a small group I can’t hide from you and I learn what it means to bear with one another.

We all need a place where we are genuinely known. Where it is me that you know and not just my image that is known.

**Galatians 6:2-5 Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. 4 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load.**

Some things are too big to face alone.

Galatians 6:2-5

Carry each other’s burdens or carry your own. Word there is heavy load first and then the last verse is carry your own backpack.

Some stuff is not to keep dumping on everybody else. We want the organization to carry the load but it’s because we don’t have people who know us.

At 70 people we ask prayer for other people.

Exhibitionists who share everything people will run from you but we need more than just our close family. To help us before we collapse because the burden is too great.

1. **We care best when there are multiple relationships with unique gifts, skills and resources**

It gets fun

How to care? According to gifts and reach. You will care for someone uniquely from another person. That is really good actually.

When you know somebody, you care for them to the level that you have resources and gifts.

People don’t need to be told to care

Who to care for? The people that we know. Connectors illustration. You have so many connectors.

You don’t have to run out there and find a whole lot of people to care for.

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

**24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**

Hebrews 10:24-25

Age of no mobility – think of that.

Forsake not….heard that and thought that meant whenever the doors are open.

Command about being in community…not going to programs.

Agitate to provoke…Greek when you are together you push each other on.

**Closing**

**The Church as an Environment to Flourish: Caring Relationships with the Bible and the Holy Spirit in the Centre**

The most caring environment is gathering with scripture and the Holy Spirit at the centre

Care is being challenged through scripture.

**Colossians 3:16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.**

**Hebrews 3:13(NIV) But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.**

Honestly challenged.

If I am not genuinely known than I can’t lovingly support. If I am loved and known – then I can be honestly challenged.

Grow up in a small town – everybody knows and it has an upside and a downside.

Cop at the counter

Struggle of the sin nature….it helps to be known.

When we are alone no one will know.

WE can have help or privacy – your choice.

**James 5:16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.**

Whose burdens am I bearing? Who am I confessing my sins to?

Where am I genuinely known, honestly supported and honestly challenged?

If you don’t have this – then get in a Life group. If you just have a spouse and a couple of friends. You will not get to be all God wants you to be…you get there when you are a part of a church not just going to church.

The Life groups are there to serve you, not to make a program. WE have this because we are so mobile and we don’t have roots.

Help us to not just be a crowd but a place where we are genuinely caring and being cared for.