

Chapter 4: Community
Based on Paragraph 7; Lines 1-3

“We are all broken in some way, in need of the love, healing and support of Christ.”

Regardless of our acceptance of the truth, we are all connected as children of God. This connection can be seen in both the love we show to each other when we are at our best, close to God, and the pain we cause each other when we let our egos surpass the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Our desire to fulfill our egos, causes us to break. We have been broken since Adam and Eve and have been unable to escape this almost instinctual drive to feed our egos, further extending the cracks in our lives. At some point, we come to the understanding that our ego will always leave us unsatisfied.

When happiness seems far, but not unreachable, we turn to those around us. Since we are all connected to God, community has the potential to give us the compassion we need in our times of weakness. When we need love, God provides. When we need healing, God provides. When we need support, God provides. As a community, we demonstrate compassion because of our instinct to love. Psalms 145:9 tells us “The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.” Community is God’s device for expressing His compassion.

We are fragile. Our fragility is a gift. It is our natural imperfection that reminds us of our limitedness, our dependence on each other, and our dependence on God. When we come to the understanding we are lacking we search for help. God provides this help in the context of the community. It is our fragility that fosters a community, based on the understanding that we need each other to be stronger, to experience the love of God, and to express the compassion of the Lord. God uses our many communities to build opportunities to minister to our broken souls.

When we deprive ourselves of community, we leave ourselves to be devoured by the wolves that live inside our egos. When we find our way to the community, we hopefully find the comfort of green pastures, soft wool, still streams, and a protector providing us security and healing our brokenness.

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