



Take a  
Moment to  
Pray for  
Peace!

## What Does Community Mean?

When we study the animal world, we learn that in many animal communities there is a very strict 'pecking order'. The dominant animals (male, female, and offspring) get the best food, the first opportunity to reach the safest places when there is a predator threat, and the best sleeping places, along with submissive respect and special treatment from all other members of the group. As a result, the dominant animals have the best chance of survival. However, all this comes at the cost of the need for constant vigilance against a challenge from want-a-bees for the dominant spot in the group. The slightest sign of weakness will bring a challenge and inevitably one day, the challenger will succeed resulting in death or exile for the defeated one. Community in the human worldly view, has similar characteristics, but community in God's view for his people is much different. Look to Romans, chapter 12, for a concise picture of community in God's eyes.

- Reject the world's view where dominance and submission reign and seek God's transforming will. We are not animals who live by survival of the fittest, we are children of God.
- Do not glorify yourself. Different people have different roles to play but all are part of the one body and all are valuable to the group. No one is expendable.
- We are to truly and hole-heartedly love and honor each other.
- We should serve the Lord, diligently and pray fervently. That includes steadfastly meeting the needs of both saints and strangers. We are to bless even those who mean to do us harm and reject eye-for-an-eye thinking.
- We are to share in the joys, the struggles and sorrows of everyone in the group. When one rejoices all rejoice; when one weeps, all weep.
- We are always to remember we are not better or wiser than other people. Being haughty or keeping company with people who are, is not pleasing to God.
- We should never repay evil for evil and always work for the good of everyone.
- We cannot control others and should not try to. However, we can and should control ourselves and do all we can to live at peace with everyone. Peacemaking is not someone else's responsibility. It is our responsibility as far as it depends on us.

### ***This week in your prayer time:***

- **Children at the Border** – a new government report confirms the horrendous phycological damage being done to children taken from their parents and imprisoned by current U.S. emigration policy.
- **Those Dealing with Hurricane Dorian** – at least 20 are dead in the Bahamas which was devastated. The storm is now impacting the eastern U.S. mainland.
- **Those affected by gun violence** – There were 12 incidents in which 4 or more people were hurt or killed last week (August 25–31). 7 of these incidents took place on August 31<sup>st</sup> including the one in Odessa, TX which had the highest number of victims (8 killed & 23 injured).
- **The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and neighboring countries** – the Ebola epidemic continues. Fear and misinformation are still a big problem. People are afraid to seek help because they do not trust the health workers or understand that people can survive Ebola. More than 2,000 people have died.



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