

C. What makes the church a *community*?

i. Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:7, 17

ii. Colossians (1:28), 3:16

Crabb: *It's time to build the church, a community of people who take refuge in God and encourage each other to never flee to another source of help, a community of folks who know the only way to live in this world is to focus on the spiritual life—our life with God and others. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it. Our impact on the world is at stake.*¹

D. Turning our chairs toward each other.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Can you think of some ways or places in which Scripture describes the church as a community on a journey?
- How should the value system of the community which Jesus lays out in the sermon on the mount and the priority of what we are to seek, effect how the members of this community relates to each other?
- Why is it important that the members of the community agree that Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5-7 will be our guide on the journey?
- How do the scriptures call us to be a spiritual community with “our chairs turned toward each other”?
- In what sense is it true to say that the church is “not a meeting”? In what sense would that not be true?
- Were there aspects of this message challenged you? ... stirred you? ...envisioned you? What affected you most?

¹ Crabb, Larry. (Kindle Locations 519-521).

The Church: A Spiritual Community II

The Church on a Journey

Jerry Cisar — March 12, 2017

Introduction

I. Community Compact (Matthew 5 – 7)

- A. The church is a traveling community.
 - i. 1 Peter 2:9 describes the church with the same language God uses to describe Israel at the start of their journey across the desert. **They were a traveling community.**
 - ii. The book of Hebrews.
 - iii. The Gospel (s)
- B. The Gospel's counterpart to the Sinai event. (5:1)
 - i. This Law was to be the covenant for that community.
 - ii. The Sermon on the Mount represents the travel covenant for this new community as we follow Jesus.
- C. We are a community with a different value system. (5:3-12)

D. We are a community bound by the law of love.

i. 5:21-48

ii. 6:1-18

E. We are on a journey to a different destination. (6:19-34)

i. 6:32-33 What you need vs. what you seek.

ii. Our agreement, our travel compact or covenant, is that we are seeking the Rule of God – His justice and righteousness.

II. Community Misconceptions and Missteps (Matthew 16:21-26)

A. Misconceptions about the Journey

Larry Crabb: *“We moderns tend to think of our spiritual journey as a God-directed adventure until something goes seriously wrong or until certain problems persist past the time we give God to take them away. Then we think about solving the problems more than about finding God in the midst of them. We focus more on using God to improve our lives than on worshiping Him in any and every circumstance. We think more about pathology—what can be fixed—than about the journey we’re on.”*²

B. Missteps on the Journey

C. We are called to be a spiritual community.

III. Community Participation

A. The Church as an Assembly

B. The church is a spiritual community. What makes it *spiritual*?

² Crabb, Larry. *Becoming a True Spiritual Community: A Profound Vision of What the Church Can Be* (Kindle Locations 462-466).