



Too often, churches seem to be just vendors of religious services for do-it-yourself Christians. They may offer a vast array of programs and activities, but they lack the one thing that can truly transform the people who walk through their doors - genuine Christian community. People are searching for a place where they're accepted just as they are and encouraged to become all they can be. They want to become part of a community that helps connect them to God and other people through bonds of love. God wants that for His people, too. After all, He is a God of relationship, existing in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We really need to understand our church's purpose. You see our church doesn't exist simply to help people in their individual faith journeys. It's meant to be a living organism that helps people encounter the living God together and grow closer to Him. It's crucial for us a church to be a strong community to fulfill its purpose. Why do I say that? Well, if we are striving to grow into exceptional Christians, we must have an exceptional community to do so in. You see the more church is like God (reflecting His loving relationships), the more its people will become like Christ. One of our biggest tasks is to

help people be participants instead of spectators. There are lots of opportunities for everyone in church to contribute their talents to the congregation's greater good. I want to encourage you to serve in the way God leads and prompts you. We need to start putting our faith into action even more than we do now. We have a very welcoming church but we need to strive to be even more guest-friendly, by realizing that we are also the people who are representing Christ to newcomers.



My friend's don't let age or anything else be an obstacle to you playing your part in the life of our church. We all have a role and part to play. I want to invite you to begin a relationship with God and your brothers and sisters here at FPC that will transform the life of this church and the community around us by our words and actions.

I encourage you to dive deep in God's Word and to rely on the Holy Spirit's wisdom to help you live out Scripture day by day. This will be the foundation for each of us to become better ambassadors for Christ to a watching world. We have to make discipleship a top priority by encouraging our members to keep moving forward in their relationships with Christ. The community in Hutchinson desperately needs us to be a witness to them about who God is, his love for them and their need of him as their Lord and Savior.

God has called us here at First Presbyterian Hutchinson to embody His character and act as His hands and feet in our part of the world, Hutchinson Kansas. Now let's be clear that when I talk about church I am not talking about the building on 201 E. Sherman. No, I am talking about you and me, we are the church. So let's get down to do the job that God calls us to do and build a church community that is in the business of transforming lives.

This is what God longs for you and i to do. So let's not disappoint him but instead make it our priority to be everything that God want us to be. A living, life changing community of believers!