

**DATE: November 6, 2011**

**TITLE: "MADE FOR COMMUNITY"**

**TEXT: Romans 15:1-7**

**SERIES: "MADE FOR MORE" No. 7 (The Lifestyle of the Transformed)**

The Transition from Me to We

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Pictures of churches (information). Church buildings come in all sizes and shapes.

- **Harajuku: Japanese Futuristic Church**  
This futuristic Protestant church is located in Tokyo, unveiled in 2005. The ceiling is specially made to reverberate natural sound for 2 seconds to provide a unique listening experience for worshipers and tourists.
- **St. Basil's Cathedral** is a Russian Orthodox Church, located on the Red Square in Moscow, Russia. The Cathedral sports a series of colorful bulbous domes named onion domes that taper to a point.
- The **Hallgrímskirkja** (literally, the church of Hallgrímur) is a Lutheran parish church located in Reykjavík, Iceland. At 74.5 metres (244 ft), it is the fourth tallest architectural structure in Iceland. The church was commissioned in 1937; it took 38 years to build it.
- The **Tempeliahaukio Kirkko** (Rock Church) is located in Helsinki. It is built entirely underground and has a ceiling made of copper wire and was completed in 1969.
- The **Catedral Metropolitana Nossa Senhora Aparecida**, in the capital of Brazil, This concrete-framed hyperboloid structure seems, with its glass roof, to be reaching up, open to heaven. The Cathedral was dedicated on 31 May, 1970.
- The **Borgund Stave Church** in Laerdal is the best preserved of Norway's 28 extant stave churches. This wooden church, probably built in the end of the 12th century, has not changed structure or had a major reconstruction since the date it was built.
- The **Las Lajas Cathedral** is located in southern Colombia, built in 1916 inside the canyon of the Guaitara River. A mysterious painting of the Virgin Mary carrying a baby was discovered on the wall of the cave where it was built
- The **St. Joseph The Betrothed** is an Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Chicago. Built in 1956, it is most known for its ultra-modern thirteen gold domed roof, symbolizing the twelve Apostles and Jesus Christ as the largest center dome.
- The **Ružica Church**, located over the Kalemegdan Fortress in Belgrade, Serbia, is a small chapel decorated with... with trench art! Its chandeliers are entirely made of spent bullet casing, swords, and cannon parts.
- The **Chapel of St-Gildas** sits upon the bank of the Canal du Blavet in Brittany, France. Built like a stone barn into the base of a bare rocky cliff, this was once a holy place of the Druids.

So often when we think of the church today, we think of a building, but the church is not a building. You can have a church building and not have a church. The church is so much more than a building. The church is made up of people, with Christ as the Head of the church. It is made up of people who care about God and want people to be connected with God and others. The church is a group of people whose lives are being transformed by Christ. You and I need the church. The church is a community. Our community and our world need the church to be the church. As has been said, the church is God's plan and there is no Plan B. The church is made up of people who understand that through Christ Jesus they were made for more. Paul, while writing to the church in Rome about some things that could have been divisive, gives a picture of what the church is to be and what it is about. The church consists of people who make a shift from individualism to community. A people who are making the transition from Me to We.

### **I. (v.1-3) A COMMUNITY THAT HELPS EACH OTHER**

**"Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."**

#### **(Romans 15:2)**

1. In a world where there are so many things that can tear us down, we need to be building or lifting each other up.
2. We are made for more than walking through this life alone.
3. We are made to take the hand of others and help them.
4. We are made to do life together.
5. Scripture points out many times in many different ways that we need each other.
6. There is something so significant, so powerful, so healing, so important about being in a healthy community.

**EXAMPLE: I was talking with someone who does not attend our church who had been dealing with cancer. Their statement to me several times was, "Life is hard."**

7. Life is hard but the Apostle Paul understood it is harder when you try to do alone.
8. We come together as a body of believers because we really do need each other.
9. In this letter to the body of believers or church at Rome, Paul is writing to the church about unselfish living.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Andrew Murray said, "When the world sees a church from which selfishness is banished, then it will acknowledge the divine mission of Christ because he has wrought such a wonder, a community of men who truly and heartily love one another."**

10. He is calling for the end of self-centeredness and selfishness in the community of Christ so we might truly build up each other.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Billy Graham said, "The smallest package I ever saw was a man wrapped up wholly in himself." (Billy Graham)**

11. Paul was basically saying to the church, "It is not about pleasing ourselves but about building up others."

12. The body of Christ or Church is not about individualism but community.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*“Through the history of the church, genuine spirituality has always been nurtured in the womb of genuine Christian community.” (Eric Sadras – author)**

13. Mature or strong Christians are always asking themselves, “What is in my hand that might be useful to the common good of the body or community that I am a part of?”

14. For true community to happen, the spiritually mature have to be more focused on pleasing others for their good to build them up than on pleasing themselves

15. Spiritual strength is for service, not status.

16. What do I have to offer others in the body of Christ to build someone else up?

**ILLUSTRATION: One of the challenges the church is facing these days is young adults and young couples leaving the church. For the sake of the future of the church, we seek to minister to the whole family, but we are focused on reaching our young families for a period of time. Though some return, one of the solutions to that is intergenerational ministry. Older couples speaking into the lives of younger couple. Older people speaking into the lives of younger people. Find someone to mentor to build up. God has given us the experiences and the gifts in our lives to invest in the lives of others. Legacy ministry is about investing in others in the community.**

**“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8)**

17. Paul is saying, “Those of us who are strong in the things of God should be helping others and not seek to just please ourselves or satisfy our own self interest.”

**“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1)**

18. Those who are spiritual strong should bear with and help those who are spiritually weak.

19. Our purpose should not be to please ourselves but to help our brothers and sisters in Christ become strong and victorious in their faith.

**“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)**

20. Here in, lies the importance of an intergenerational church.

21. A church of one generation coming along and helping and encouraging another generation as one body of Christ.

22. It is a shift in priority from individualism to community.

**ILLUSTRATION: “A community is only a community when the majority of its members are making the transition from “the community for myself” to “Myself for the community.” (Jean Vanier)**

23. We looked a month ago at Philippians 2:4, that reads, **“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”**
24. The body of Christ is not about pleasing our own individual desires or wants but building up others.
25. The church really is about community.
26. Paul makes it clear that we have a responsibility for others, for the goal is the good of others.
27. Each one in the church should not live to please ourselves but to build up others for their good.
28. Our purpose should be not to please ourselves but to help our brothers and sisters in Christ become strong and victorious in their faith.
29. Selfishness, critical judgmental, or a self-centered spirit will always hinder community.
30. Everything may not benefit me or be what I prefer or desire, but I set that aside for the sake of pleasing others.
31. Each one of us has a responsibility to build up others for their good.
32. Romans 15:2, for their good is to seek what is best for them spiritually.
33. Pleasing God is incompatible with ignoring one’s neighbor.
34. Agape seeks to please the neighbor for his good.
35. Good is not always what the person wants to hear, but rather, helping them grow and building them up in Christ.
36. This protects the virtue of forbearance from being reduced to niceness.
37. We may, for example, be nice when we should be just, or be agreeable when we should be truthful, or be flattering when honesty and integrity are demanded.
38. Being part of the community of Christ is about building others up.
39. **\*\*Build Each Other Up With Words.**  
**“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Ephesians 4:29)**
40. **\*\*Build Each Other Up With Service.**  
**“...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:12-13)**
41. **\*\*Build Each Other Up With Love.**  
**“... but love builds up.” (I Corinthians 8:1)**  
**“The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule; ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:9-10)**

**42. \*\*Build Each Other Up With Encouragement.**

**“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (I Thessalonians 5:11)**

43. He is talking about community.

**Turn to I Corinthians 12:12.**

**“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.” (I Corinthians 12:12)**

44. The church is one body, one community, made up of many parts.

45. The church is made up of people who belong to one another. (vs.14-15)

46. The church is a place where people care about one another.

47. A member is so much more than someone on a membership role.

48. A member of the church or body of Christ is someone that is contributing to the body.

**ILLUSTRATION: Paul Brand, some years ago, wrote *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* with Philip Yancey. A noted physician, he took Paul’s parable a step further. The analogy conveys a more precise meaning to me because, though a hand or foot or ear cannot have a life separate from the body, a cell does have that potential. It can be part of the body as a loyalist, or it can cling to its own life. In fact, some cells do choose to live inside the body, sharing its benefits while maintaining complete independence. This physician then pointed out the two medical names these separate cells are given: either parasites or cancer.**

49. We really do need each other in community.

**“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’” (I Corinthians 12:21)**

50. I cannot be complete without you and you cannot be complete without me.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\* “Without community, we remain fundamentally alone, one-dimensional and disconnected-not only from others but from ourselves and from God.” (Gordon T. Smith.)**

51. Nearly everyone everywhere believes the church is not what it should be today.

52. Perhaps the number one reason is the parasitic and even cancerous effect of many not moving from me to we.

53. The ongoing trouble in Paul’s little church was that its members saw themselves as individuals, dissimilar to the whole.

**ILLUSTRATION South African Anglican minister, Reverend Desmond Tut has coined the term, “ubuntu,” which is African for “people” and represents a community theology expressed in the phrase “We are, therefore I am.” It suggests that one’s identity is formed by community. A person can only be a person through others.**

54. We really do need each other.

**ILLUSTRATION: “Alone, I cannot serve the Lord effectively, and He will spare no pains to teach me this. He will bring things to an end, allowing doors to close and leaving me ineffectively knocking my head against a wall until I realize that I need the help of the body as well as of the Lord.” (Watchman Nee)**

55. Jesus modeled community.

56. Paul gives a powerful example in Jesus in verse three, when he wrote, **“For even Christ did not please himself...” (Romans 15:3)**

57. Paul’s verb “please” sums up the life and character of Christ.

**“The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” (John 8:29)**

58. The pattern He followed through his career on our behalf only culminated in His death on the cross.

59. Christ did not please Himself or live His life to fit what met His own desires.

60. Quoting from Psalm 69:4, Paul makes it clear Jesus went to great lengths not to please Himself when he wrote, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”

61. We are to follow the principle of Jesus, who did not live to please self, but rather, to do the will of the Father.

**ILLUSTRATION: Adele Gaboury’s neighbors knew who she was, and you might say they took good care of her. When her lawn grew hip-high, they paid a local boy to mow it down. When her pipes froze and broke, they called to have the water turned off. When the mail spilled out the door, they called the police to clean it up. Her car, full of trash, was towed at one point as a fire hazard. The only thing they didn’t do was to check on her; they never knocked on her door to see how she was doing with all this going on. They reported later that, technically, they hadn’t seen her in quite a while, so they didn’t even know if she was alive. Well she wasn’t Police discovered this when they climbed the crumbled stoop to her little blue house and forced their way in. There was the seventy-three-year old skeletal remains in a five-foot-high pile of trash, where they had apparently been for almost four years.**

**How could this happen? Neighbor Eileen Dugan put it well: “It’s not really a very friendly neighborhood” she said. Yeah, we might have guessed. Eileen, who at one time was close to the deceased Adele, went on to confess, “I’m as much to blame as anyone. She was alone and needed someone to talk to, but I was working two jobs and I was sick of her coming over at all hours. Eventually I stopped answering the door.”**

62. The church is made of people who do not stop answering the door.

63. We are here to build one another up.

## **II. (v.4) A COMMUNITY WITH HOPE FROM GOD’S WORD**

1. The Apostle Paul had just used an Old Testament scripture to talk about Christ, so he points to the importance of Scripture.
2. He wants his readers to understand that all that was written in the past was to teach us and to give us hope.
3. The Old Testament pointed to Christ and to the hope we have in Christ Jesus.

**“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (II Peter 1:20-21)**

4. The scripture is God’s word to us.
5. It was give to teach us. **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (II Timothy 3:16)**
6. Scriptures have survived the test of time, and though ancient and written in the past, it is relevant to our lives today.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*In 1936, Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “I believe that the Bible alone is the answer to all our questions.... Because in the Bible God speaks to us.” (Letter to brother-in-law, Rudiger Schletcher)**

7. It was said of Dietrich Bonheoffer, **“He taught us that the Bible goes directly into your life, to where your problems are.” (Inge Karding)**
8. These Christians were living the Christian life in a difficult world.
9. In the midst of pressure from outside and inside, they needed the hope of the gospel more than ever.
10. With all of the discouragement of life, they needed the encouragement and comfort that comes from God’s word.
11. The Christian hope has seen everything and endured everything, and still has not despaired because it believes in God.
12. The word of God keeps us steady and gives encouragement and comfort.
13. God’s word fills our lives and the church with the hope of Christ.
14. The church is a place of hope, for it is built on the foundation of God’s word.
15. It was written so we might believe in Christ.

**“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)**

16. Scripture is to be read in the light of Christ.
17. In Christ, we have the hope of forgiveness of sin that separates us from God.
18. In Christ, we have the hope of eternity.

**ILLUSTRATION: Adrian Rogers, in one of his books, recalls, “I remember hearing a remarkable example of this in the life of Aleksandra Solzhenitsyn, the famous Russian Christian and author of The Gulag Archipelago, the gripping account of his ordeal in a Soviet communist prison camp. Solzhenitsyn said that when he was suddenly arrested by Stalin’s secret police and sent to a labor camp in Siberia, he was so tortured in mind and body that he contemplated suicide. He wondered if anyone in the world knew where he was, and he felt utterly alone. He drew up a suicide plan in his mind, telling no one of his intention. But the day Solzhenitsyn was planning to take his own life, he was sitting on the ground when another prisoner walked by and looked at him. It was**

as if this man saw into Solzhenitsyn's mind and heart and knew he was desperate. The prisoners were not allowed to speak, but the man knelt down in front of Solzhenitsyn and drew a cross in the dirt. Solzhenitsyn said he drew strength from this man's simple reminder of the hope we have in Christ – and within a week, he was a free man in Geneva, Switzerland! It turned out that people around the world had been praying for Aleksandra Solzhenitsyn and petitioning for his release. "To think that I was about to commit suicide," he said later, "and within a week I was free!"

19. The message of the church is a message of hope.

20. The church is filled with hope, for God's word give us hope.

**ILLUSTRATION: French World War I hero, Marshal Ferdinand Foch's motto was, "There are no hopeless situations; there are only men and women who have grown hopeless about them."**

21. The church is a body of believers filled with hope.

22. With the Word of God, the church is not without hope.

23. The basis of that hope is first in the work of Christ and witness of scriptures.

24. Hope is something every person needs.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Author, Ted Dekker, in his book, Slumber of Christianity, said, "Hope is far more than a flimsy notion. It's the engine of life."**

25. God is the God of all hope.

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."**  
**(Romans 15:13)**

26. God wants us to have hope.

**ILLUSTRATION: In his book, Relationships 101, John C. Maxwell tells of this experiment: "An experiment performed with laboratory rats measured their motivation to live under different circumstances. Scientists dropped a rat into a jar of water that had been placed in total darkness, and they timed how long the animal would continue swimming before it gave up and allowed itself to drown. They found that the rat lasted little more than three minutes. Then they dropped another rat into the same kind of jar, but instead of placing it in total darkness, they allowed a ray of light to shine into it. Under those circumstances, the rat kept swimming for thirty-six hours. That's more than seven hundred times longer than the one in the dark! Because the rat could see, it continued to have hope."**

27. God's word is the light that guides us and gives us hope

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."** (Psalm 119:105)

28. The church should hold forth the word of God, for it is the word of life and hope.

29. Paul, writing to the church in Phillippi, said, **"...you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life..."** (Philippians 2:15-16)

30. The community of Christ is a community grounded on the foundation of God's word.
31. Paul's point is that the church at Rome has experienced these things together, and they have found both encouragement and comfort in Christ and the Scriptures together.
32. He is speaking about a bible-centered community of believers.
33. The church will never be spiritual until it is scriptural.
34. It is the word of God that makes us the community of Christ.
35. We come together to study the word of God.
36. We come together to live out the word of God.
37. The church needs scripture.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Albert Mohler said, "Indeed, there are hard words in Scripture, but it is all for our good!"**

38. Not a church that puts a bible on the display case in the center of the church.
39. To have hope is to exercise hope.
40. A church where the pages of the word of God are seen in everything it does.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*As Author Bill Thrasher said, "The Bible is the only book whose Author is always present when one reads it."**

41. We need to share the word of God with each other, for it gives hope. **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)**

42. We must encourage one another with the hope of the word of God.

**ILLUSTRATION: The Stockdale Paradox – the name refers to Admiral Jim Stockdale, who was the highest ranking United States military officer in the "Hanoi Hilton" prisoner-of-war camp during the height of the Vietnam War. Tortured over twenty times during his eight-year imprisonment, from 1965 to 1973, Stockdale lived out the war without any prisoner's rights, no set release date, and no certainty as to whether he would even survive to see his family again. He shouldered the burden of command, doing everything he could to create conditions that would increase the number of prisoners who would survive unbroken, while fighting an internal war against his captors and their attempts to use the prisoners for propaganda. At one point, he beat himself with a stool and cut himself with a razor, deliberately disfiguring himself, so that he could not be put on videotape as an example of a "well-treated prisoner." He exchanged secret intelligence information with his wife through their letters, knowing that discovery would mean more torture and perhaps death. He instituted rules that would help people to deal with torture. He instituted an elaborate internal communications system to reduce the sense of isolation that their captors tried to create, which used a five-by-five matrix of tap codes for alpha characters. At one point, during an imposed silence, the prisoners mopped and swept the central yard using the code, swish-**

swashing out “We love you” to Stockdale, on the third anniversary of his being shot down. After his release, Stockdale became the first three-star officer in the history of the navy to wear both aviator wings and the Congressional Medal of Honor. One person once asked him how he survived. “I never lost faith in the end of the story,” Not just being optimistic but rather, faith you will prevail in the end.

43. The church is a community filled with the hope of Christ given in His word.

44. A community where we share the hope.

### III. (vs.5-6) A COMMUNITY FOCUSED UPON HIM IN UNITY

1. God is the Source, for it is Him who gives endurance and encouragement.
2. God gives a spirit of unity among ourselves as we follow Christ Jesus.
3. When we truly follow Christ, He brings us together in unity, for He is the Head of the church.
4. There are so many things that have divided churches and seek to divide, for division is the Enemy’s greatest tool.
5. The dangers of legalism of liberalism – styles, methods, prejudices, self are real, for many of us have watched churches ripped apart by disunity.
6. When the church is focused on other things, we can become divided.
7. When we follow Jesus, we are all going in the same direction.
8. When we lose sight of Christ and His purpose, the church loses its effectiveness.

**CARTOON: \*\*\* (From Loving Your City into the Kingdom) Does not have words but the message is clear. Show part one, then part two, and then a slide with both at the same time, if possible.**

9. The church must keep our focus on Him.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*Someone said, “Talk about what you believe and you have disunity. Talk about who you believe in and you have unity.”**

10. When we follow the Christ of compassion, we have compassion for one another.

11. When we follow the Christ of forgiveness, we have forgiveness for one another.

12. When we follow the Christ of love, we have love for one another.

13. When we follow the Christ who came to serve, we serve one another.

14. When we follow the Christ who came to save, we are focused together in our purpose so that by all means they might be saved.

15. When the church follows other things, we become divided.

16. Following Jesus is about picking up the cross and following Him.

17. Following Jesus is about leaving individualism and coming together in community.

**ILLUSTRATION: “When you become a follower of Jesus, you can’t continue living for yourself alone; with no community aside from yourself. As followers of Jesus, we have been born into God’s family, and as members of His family, we belong in relationships with others.” (David Putman- author)**

18. The Christ who unites is greater than the things that divide us.

19. If something is pulling you away, you need to get refocused upon Jesus.

**ILLUSTRATION: The Craterian Ginger Roger Theater is named after Actress Ginger Rogers who performed here as early as 1926. She said, "When two people love each other, they don't look at each other. They look in the same direction." (Ginger Rogers)**

20. Jesus calls us to look in the same direction.

21. Focus not on differences but on the Christ who brings us together.

22. We have to keep looking at Jesus.

**"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)**

23. You won't be distracted by anything in the church when you are focused upon the Head of the church.

24. Paul prayed for a spirit of unity that would minimize individual differences as all fixed their attention on Christ as the pattern for their own lives.

25. Following Jesus will impact your heart.

**EXAMPLE: The Greek word translated as one heart in verse 6 was described by Demosthenes to describe the sort of oneness that results when a group of soldiers is attacked by an enemy. Whatever their differences, the threat of destruction welds them into a fighting unit. Jeremiah 32:39 says, "I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them."**

**II Chronicles 30:12 reads, "Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord."**

**And, in Acts 4:32a, "All the believers were one in heart and mind."**

26. Following Jesus will impact your mind.

27. Following Jesus will impact your worship.

28. Truly following Jesus will result in a unity that will glorify God.

**The Psalmist said, "Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:3)**

29. A unified church is marked by praise and glory to God.

30. Jesus raises the expectations in the area of community when He says in verse 7, we are to accept others as Christ accepted us.

31. What Christ has been to you, be to others.

**"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13)**

32. Community is at the heart of the Church's identity.

33. We are made for community in Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION: \*\*"Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful-Christian community is the final apologetic." (Francis Schaeffer)**

34. The world needs the church to be the Church.

35. The church needs you and you need the church.

36. Christ loves the church.

**“...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)**

37. God transforms us through His spirit so we can make the transition from individualism to community, from me to we.

**CONCLUSION:** Close in prayer for the church to be the community God wants us to be. The church needs to be the Church. As we receive communion, Christ died for the church to be the church.

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