

Prayer Group

Sunday Mornings 9:15 - 10:00

**Gather together to focus
on one attribute of God,
then pray through a Psalm.**

**Women meet at Courtney's
(43 Maple St.)**

Men meet at the church



TEXT TO GIVE

SIMPLY TEXT A NUMBER TO 84321
AND A LINK TO SET IT UP WILL COME BACK

AFTER THAT YOU CAN TEXT ANY AMOUNT TO
THAT NUMBER AND IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY
GIVE TO **G**RA**C**E B**R**E**V**A**R**D.



A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The text 'PROVERBS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below it, a thin white horizontal line separates the word 'PROVERBS' from the phrase 'LIVING WISDOM', which is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters.

PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

I Love _____

Emotional/Family Love (στοργή – storge')

Based on relation and emotion:
“I love my dad”

Friendship Love (φιλία – philia)

Based upon a commonality; heading
toward a similar goal: “I love Frank.”

Sexual Love (ἔρως – eros)

In the sense of “being IN love”
(not specifically used in the bible)

Divine/Unconditional Love (φιλία – agape)

John 15:9
As the Father has **loved** me, so have
I **loved** you. Abide in my **love**.

17:17 A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity.

18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

26:18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death
19 is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!"

25:17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,
lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

27:14 Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice,
rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

15:31 The ear that listens to life-giving reproof
will dwell among the wise.

32 Whoever ignores instruction despises himself,
but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.

28:23 Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor
than he who flatters with his tongue.

Created for Community

17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness...

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

“Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another
“What! You too? I thought that no one but myself . . .”
— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

C.S. Lewis' on the loss of his friend Charles Williams.

“In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough to call the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets. Now that Charles is dead, I shall never again see Ronald's [Tolkien's] reaction to a specifically Charles joke. Far from having more of Ronald, having him “to myself” now that Charles is away, I have less of Ronald...”

But then we broke it...and community became difficult

Gen 3:12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

18:24 A man of ***many companions*** may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

What barriers do you have to healthy community?

Fear: I don't want to let people in...what if they turn on me?

(I'd rather just have a lot of acquaintances or "virtual" friends)

Time/Priority: It's just not that important to me

Ability: I don't know how to do this.

Living in Community

Time

Making Community a Priority

Quantity + Quality

25:17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,
lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

27:14 Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice,
rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

Living in Community

Holistic

Engaging each other as whole persons.

Faith, family, hobbies, food, fears, joys, dreams...

⁹ Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

We need the wisdom from our friends, but to get it, we have to be wholly engaged or they'll be working with limited information

Living in Community

Care

¹ Peter 2:4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a **holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

^{17:17} A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity.

We are called and enabled by God's Spirit to care for each other in every phase of life.

27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

15:31 The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

32 Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.

27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Avoiding Confrontation

Simply letting “you be you and me be me” isn’t loving because it’s putting my comfort over the other person growing and potentially hurting himself.

27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Vertical Confrontation

Pointing out someone's error from a "better-than-you" perspective (even if you are "right").

Is your goal to shame them and put them in their place, or to love them?

Horizontal Confrontation

Mutually agreeing to challenge and be challenged; requires a safe relationship where I am assured that you are FOR ME and not trying to devalue me.

"Iron" and "Iron" = equals

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Empowered for Community

HOW do we engage community including receiving correction?
We have to believe the value of community and our value in Christ.

1 John 4:9-12

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

On the cross Jesus was separated from his Divine Community so that we together could be adopted into it.

Our identity and value are perfectly secure in Him, and we will know more about him as we see how he works in others.

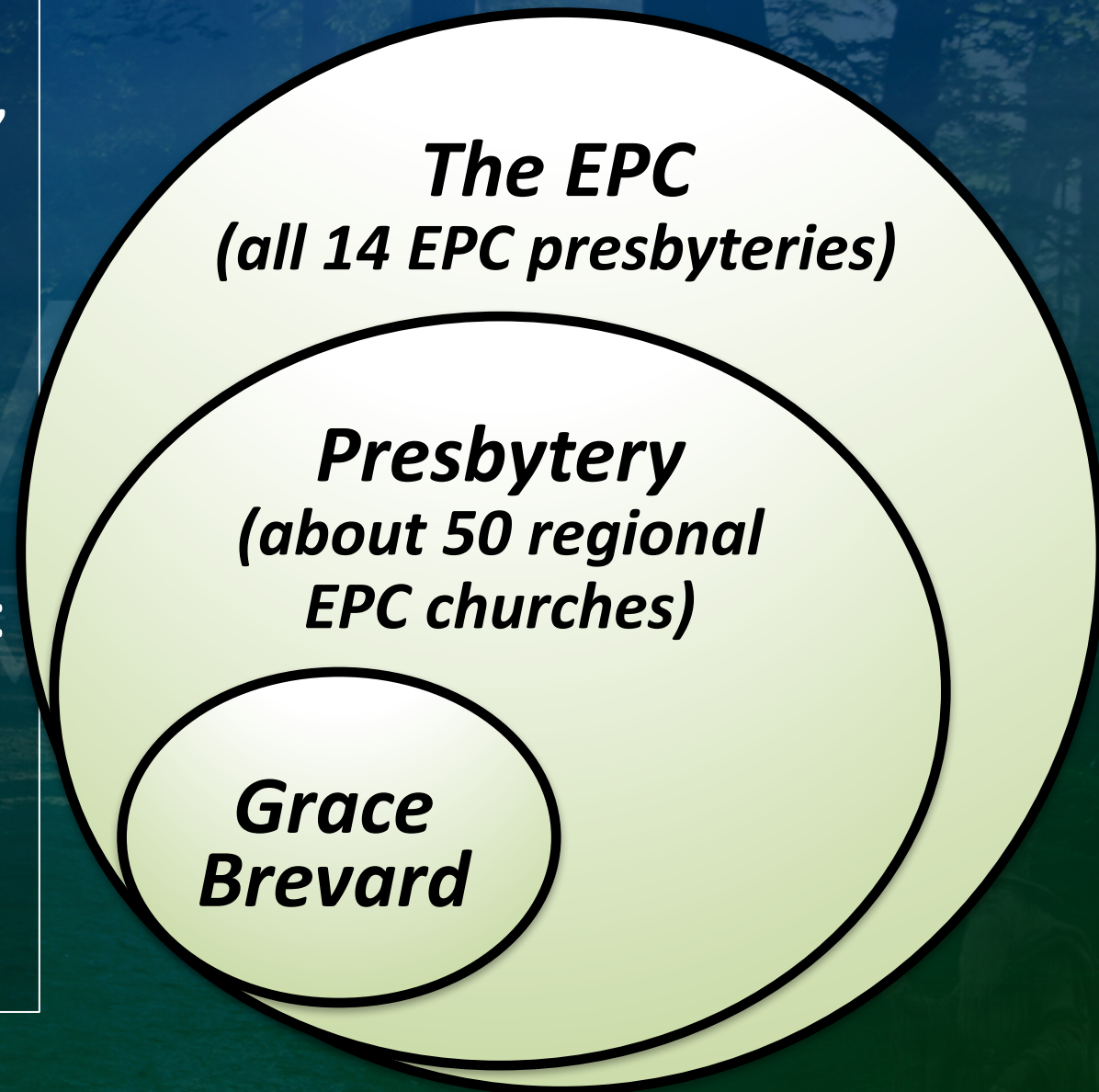
Community of Churches

Just like with our finances and with confession, repentance and forgiveness, we as a whole church are committed to follow the calling to community.

In this sense, we believe that churches ought to be in community with other churches.

We have different tiers of collaboration:

- 1) Local Grace Network
- 2) Local Denomination Network
- 3) Official EPC Denomination



Moving Forward

Start where you are...start slow.

Youth Group and Prayer Group.

Go eat a meal with somebody new.

In the Fall we'll kick off our Community Groups again.

PROVERBS
LIVING WISDOM