MADE FOR COMMUNION

Why Community Matters

Tihomir Lazic

Canford school



Canford school



Sir Austen Henry Layard



Canford school



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A lost Assyrian stone from the throne room of Assyrian King Assurnasirpal II (883–859 BC)

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£11.9m



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WHAT'S CHANGED?

Once we see things for what they really are, we change our attitude towards them.

Putting things intO

PERSPECTIVE

This invites us to readjust
our estimations, our evaluations,
and behaviours as a result.

COMMUNITY

Putting things intO

PERSPECTIVE



CHURCH UNDER CROSSFIRE

THE SEARCH FOR THE AUTHENTIC SELF



INDIVIDUALISM



A philosophical and cultural framework positing the individual human person as the ultimate, self-sufficient, and irreducible ground of value, identity, and self-determination.

EXPRESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM

FIVE CORE CONFICTIONS

Interiority (real self is within)

Desire (feelings/intuitions/desire define identity)

Uniqueness (each self is irreducible)

Expression (must be outwardly expressed)

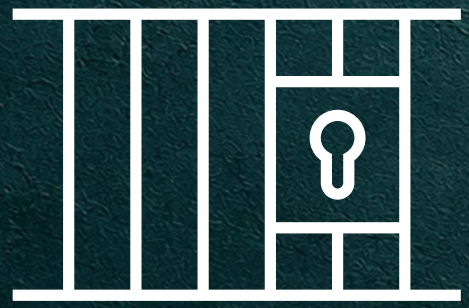
Authenticity (life must align with inner self)



BE YOURSELF!

CULTURAL MANTRA OF OUR GENERATION

church, tradition, institutions, community = **restrictive**



Where the Search Leads

Changing Patterns of Believing and Belonging

- SBNR
- SBNA
- Religious Nones
- De-churched
- Unchurched
- Post-Christian
- Disaffiliated
- Spiritual Nomads
- Spiritual Independents
- Free-range believers
- Churchless believers

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They are like the travellers who abandon a luxury liner in mid-cruise

They grow tired of the endless buffets and entertainment, the carefully designed activities, or the captain who makes all decisions about the ship's speed and direction.



Longing to experience what is not on the itinerary, they sell all they have to buy a small boat and leave the well-travelled sea lanes for uncharted waters.

TENSION

BE YOURSELF!

authenticity



belonging

TENSION

BE YOURSELF!

different



together

quiet lie

individualistic path



collectivist path

at the crossroads

JESUS CHRIST
DEMONSTRATED WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE FULLY AND TRULY HUMAN!

PERSON-IN-RELATION

communal path

individualistic path



collectivist path

at the crossroads

COMMUNITY IN PERSPECTIVE:



1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the **WORD** of life…we proclaim also to you, so that you may have **FELLOWSHIP** with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be **COMPLETE**.

1. LOGOS

2. KOINONIA

3. PLEROMA







The Scandal of
LOGOS

Greeks
dualism

Jews
Monotheism

Romans
ASCENT





The Wonder of
KOINONIA



The Wonder of
KOINONIA

KOINOS

common or shared

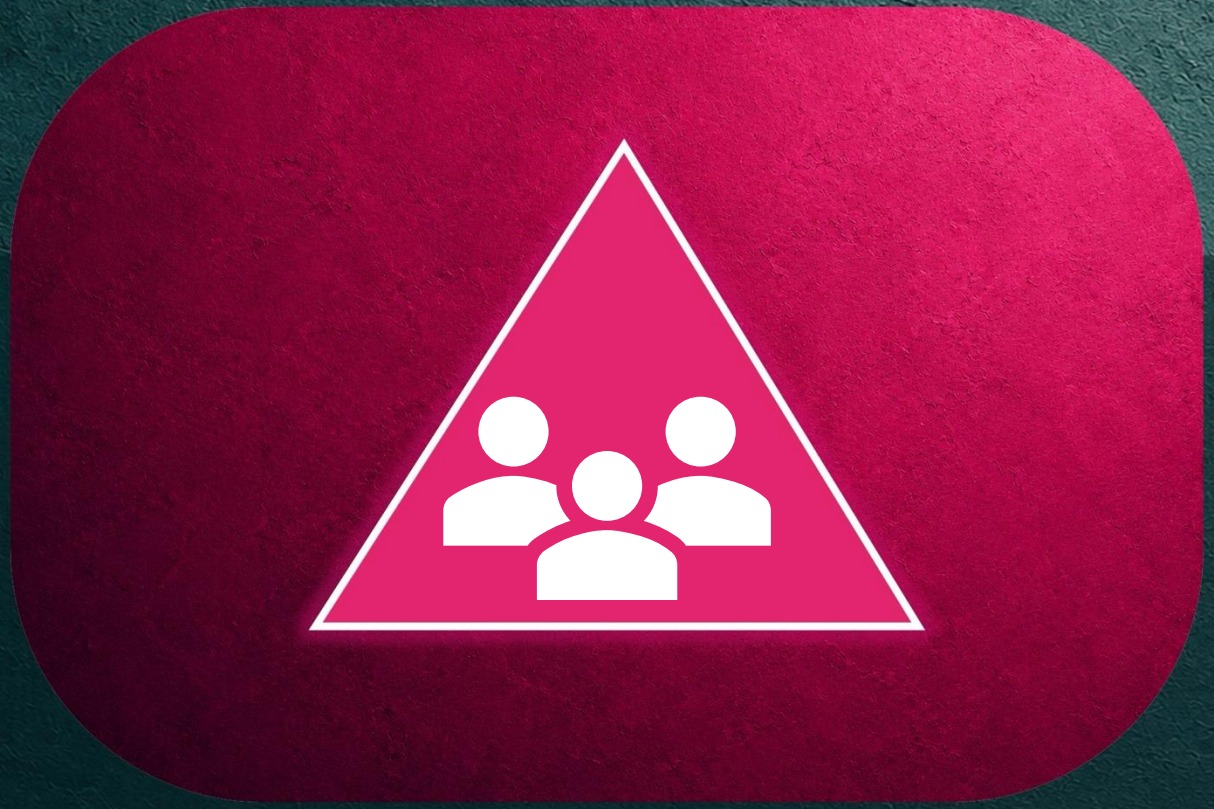
KOINONIA

fellowship – community – close relationship – communion – partaking – sharing - participation

KOINONIA IN GRECO-ROMAN WORLD

- Shared possessions
- Business partnerships
- Civic participation
- Contractual and transactional unions
- Social bonds and life ties between people
- Trade agreements and legal partnerships,
- Alliances between city-states
- Philosophical discourse: ideas of shared life and common virtue, collective harmony and moral order

Communion of believers with God in Christ through the Holy Spirit



DIVINE-HUMAN COMMUNITY

1. LOGOS

2. KOINONIA

3. PLEROMA







The Promise of PLEROMA

FULNESS
ABUNDANCE
RICHNESS



WHY KOINONIA MATTERS



1. **It's what we are made for (PURPOSE)**
   We are created for communion with God and one another

2. **It gives us a spiritual home (ROOTS)**
   Anchoring our identity, belonging, and resilience in a shifting world

3. **It's the optimal space for human growth (GROWTH)**
   We are formed, stretched, and strengthened through shared life.

4. **It leads to fullness of joy (FULLNESS)**
   Joy is not complete until it's shared in a loving community.



YOU ARE MADE FOR KOINONIA

START HERE AND NOW

Wherever two or three
are gathered in Christ's name,
KOINONIA begins.

Matt. 18:20.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE RELATIONAL REVOLUTION

God is faithful,
by whom you were called
into the koinonia
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Cor 1:9

NB!

JOIN CHRIST'S RELATIONAL REVOLUTION

MADE FOR COMMUNION

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