

Creekside Community Church  
Transformed  
October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Jeff Bruce, Associate Pastor

## **Belong**

**I. Why We Change Together:** *"[Jesus] gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."* (Titus 2:14)

**II. How We Change Together:** *"...[by] speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."* (Ephesians 4:15-16)

**For further thought and discussion:**

### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What mannerism or expression have you picked up from someone else (a parent, a friend, etc.)? For parents; can you think of a mannerism, expression or habit you've passed on to your kids?

### **Going Deeper**

3. How does an individualistic view of the gospel (i.e. *"me and Jesus"*) impact our view of the church (God's people)? Read Titus 2:11-14, 1 Corinthians 12:13, and Ephesians 2:11-22. What do these passages say about Christ's purpose in saving us? How does this change our perspective on God's people? Why do we need each other to become like Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:21)?

4. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. How does the church grow? Why are both truth and love necessary for growth? What does a community of truth without love look like? What does a community of love without truth look like?

### Application

5. According to the New Testament, what behaviors create a culture of transformation?<sup>1</sup> Which of these behaviors come most naturally to you? Which of these do you need to grow in? Which of these behaviors are strengths of your Community Group? Which of these behaviors does your Community Group need to grow in?
6. Jeff listed several “barriers to belonging” at the end of his sermon. Which of these have you experienced? What steps can you take to overcome these barriers? How can your group help you?
7. As a group, spend several minutes practicing a “one another”; specifically, affirming one another’s strengths, abilities, and gifts (see Romans 12:10). Go around the room. Have group members spend time affirming/encouraging each member of your group.
8. What’s one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?

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<sup>1</sup> Practice 1: Affirming one another’s strengths, abilities, and gifts (Romans 12:3-6, 10; James 5:9); Practice 2: Affirming one another’s equal importance in Christ (Romans 15:7; 1 Corinthians 12:25; 1 Peter 5:5; James 2:1); Practice 3: Affirming one another through visible affection (Romans 16:16; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; James 1:19); Practice 4: Sharing one another’s space, goods, and time (Romans 12:10; Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 4:9); Practice 5: Sharing one another’s needs and problems (Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11); Practice 6: Sharing one another’s beliefs, thinking, and spirituality (Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16); Practice 7: Serve one another through accountability (Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:25; James 5:16; Hebrews 3:13); Practice 8: Serve one another through forgiveness and reconciliation (Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13); Practice 9: Serve one another’s interest rather than our own (Romans 15:1-2; Galatians 5:13; adapted from Timothy Keller, *The Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything – Study Guide* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010); 58-71.