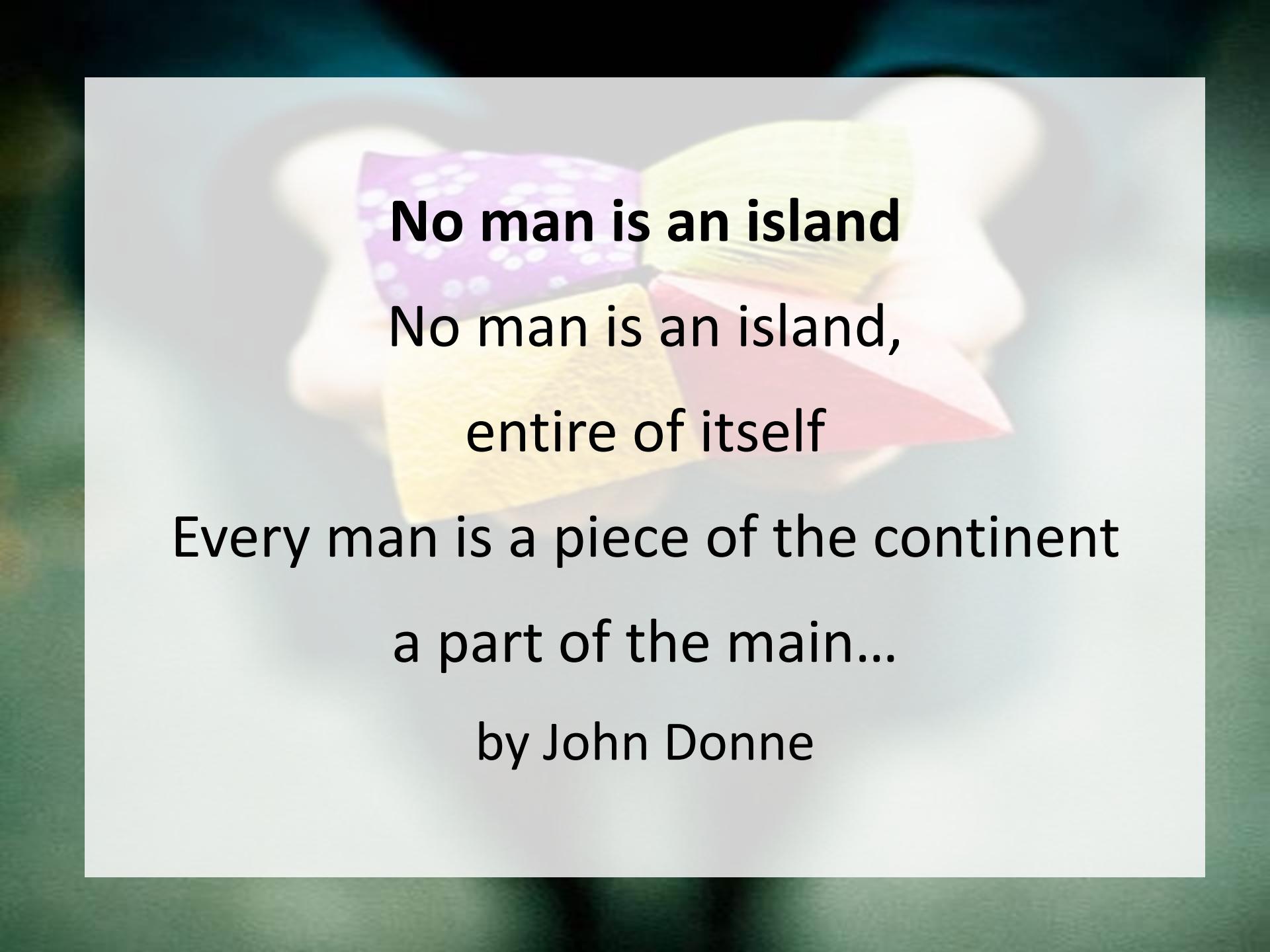




LOVE LOOKS LIKE...

community



**No man is an island**

No man is an island,  
entire of itself

Every man is a piece of the continent  
a part of the main...

by John Donne

# community

kə'mju:n̩ɪ/



a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing ***common characteristics*** or ***interests*** and perceived or perceiving itself as ***distinct in some respect*** from the larger society within which it exists



WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR US TO  
GET AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY RIGHT?

# 1.) BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO...

**John 13:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people ***will know that you are my disciples***, if you have love for one another.”

## Luke 6:32-33

32 “But if you love those who love you,  
what credit is that to you? For **even**  
**sinners love those who love them.**

33 And if you do good to those who do  
good to you, what credit is that to  
you? For even sinners do the same.



AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...  
**glorifies God!**

## 2.) THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING

So we are Christ's ambassadors;  
**God is making his appeal through us.**

We speak for Christ when we plead,  
"Come back to God!"

**2 Cor 5:20 (NLT)**



IF GOD WANTS TO MAKE HIS APPEAL  
THROUGH US,

WE NEED TO BE APPEALING

## Romans 8:19 (HCSB)

For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for **God's sons to be revealed.**

## Luke 6:35

<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and ***you will be sons of the Most High.*** For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.



AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...

**appeals to & draws the world  
back to the LOVE of God!!**

### 3.) WE GROW

“The Spirit of God has been sent to create unity out of diversity, peace out of conflict, and healing out of wounded hearts. The greatest spiritual growth will come from overcoming differences, and the greatest testimony of God’s supernatural work in a Christian community will be the love and unity that results from taking the long, hard road of true community.”

Retro Christianity – True Community

**i.) BEING PART OF A CHURCH FAMILY OR COMMUNITY IS NOT  
ALWAYS COMFORTABLE AND EASY...**

**“Love never gives up.  
Love cares more for others than for self.  
Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.  
Love doesn’t strut,  
Doesn’t have a swelled head,  
Doesn’t force itself on others,  
Isn’t always “me first,”**

Doesn't fly off the handle,  
**Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,**  
Doesn't revel when others grovel,  
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,  
**Puts up with anything,**  
Trusted God always,  
**Always looks for the best,**  
Never looks back,  
But keeps going to the end.

***1 Cor 13:4-7 (MSG)***

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a pink six-sided die with white pips and a deck of playing cards. The die is oriented vertically, showing faces with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 dots respectively. The deck of cards is fanned out behind it, with various suits and values visible. The background is blurred.

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...  
grows authentic Christians

## II.) UNITY IS PART OF AUTHENTIC commUNITY

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were calledWith all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to **preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace** <sup>4</sup> *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.”

**Ephesians 4:1-3**



**SHALOM (PEACE):**  
“health and beauty come  
from the harmonious  
integration of different parts”

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding four small, rectangular blocks. The blocks are made of a textured material and are colored pink, yellow, green, and red. They are held in a loose fist-like grip, with the blocks partially overlapping each other. The background is dark and out of focus.

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...  
**has UNITY from diversity**

## 4.) WE NEED IT

“And let us consider one another **in order to stir up love and good works** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

**Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)**

# IN COMMUNITY...

- love and good works are stirred up
- we are encouraged and strengthened
- we are established
- we are healed and restored
- needs can be met
- we find wisdom and counsel
- we find FAMILY

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding several small, colorful blocks. The blocks are made of wood and have various patterns: one is pink with white dots, another is yellow with horizontal stripes, and a third is red with a textured surface. The background is dark and out of focus.

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...  
looks like family!

# WHAT YOU PUT IN, YOU'LL GET OUT

“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>**Give, and it will be given back to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your lap. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”**

Luke 6:37-38

A stack of four books and a pink polka-dot cube. The books are stacked vertically, with the top one slightly tilted. The colors of the books are yellow, green, red, and white. The cube is pink with white polka dots.

MINISTRY TIME...