

Connect

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At Oak Pointe, The Eight is more than a sermon series. It's more than a "to do" list. It represents the lifestyle of a disciple of Jesus. The Eight represents a life that declares, "I love Jesus, I follow Jesus." Worship, Listen, Pray, Restore, Connect, Give, Go, Multiply. These are the traits of a disciple and follower of Jesus.

Today, we live in the most connected, yet disconnected time in all of history. We have ways of connecting with people around the globe and in our neighborhood without having to leave our house, yet more people than ever struggle with having close relationships. Following Jesus has always had relationships with others at the center, but we need to connect now more than ever before.

Why do we need to connect?

1. It's how we are designed.

"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26a).

"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18a).

2. It's how we grow.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 12:20).

3. It's how Jesus envisioned His church.

"He appointed twelve that they might be WITH HIM and that he might send them out to preach..." (Mark 3:14).

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:42, 44-47).

4. It's essential to our mission.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27).

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:20-21).

Bottom line: We need each other to thrive.

Big question: Who are my 2AM friends?

What do I do now?

- Join a Starter Group.
- Join a men's/women's group.
- Get creative to make space to connect.
- Go out for coffee and be real