



# THE RELATIONAL DISCIPLE

## COMMUNITY IS THE VERY NATURE OF GOD

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**Discipleship groups purpose:** Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

**Key Truth:** Moving from a life of individualism toward one of community, requires a powerful inner transformation.

**Read:** God in Himself is community. He is 3 in 1, and as we know, we too are all called to be one with Him and one another.

Jesus said "I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it". The church Jesus builds is a church that is being built from the inside out, not the outside in. Jesus spoke to religious people about the polishing of the outer cup and the neglect of the inner part of the cup. He said first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, SO THAT, the outside of it may become clean also.

Read Matthew 23:25-26 and discuss these questions

<sup>25</sup> *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.*

#### Questions:

1. Why is it essential we let God do a deep inner work within us?
2. What are the outcomes we can expect from God doing this inner transformational work within all of us as His church?
3. Why do people in general tend to polish the outside of the cup, more than letting their inner realm being transformed?
4. Jesus told the religious people they were blind and hypocrites because they polished the outer, instead of allowing Him in to deal with their "full of robbery and self indulgence" hearts. Why is being blind and hypocritical to ones true state so dangerous? What does this personally mean for us?
5. Are there areas of our life we need to repent of and start allowing God in to change our hearts?

Give everyone the opportunity to share and then pray for one another, encouraging one another to seek Him for this powerful work of the Spirit.