

Building Community
Genesis 3:8-24, 1 Peter 4:8-9
Barriers to Community: Fear
September 10, 2023

God's love casts out fear.

*This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. ~ 1 John 4:17-19*

When sin entered the world, Fellowship with God was disrupted.

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "**Where are you?**" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.**" ~ Genesis 3:8-10*

"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ~ Genesis 3:11

God is not an absentee Father.

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. ~ Genesis 3:21-24

**He must not be allowed to reach out his hand
And also take from the tree of life and eat,
And live forever.**

Banishment — was an act of God's grace!

Action Plan

Proximity

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. ~ Hebrews 10:24-25

Transparency

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. ~ James 5:16

Pray - See - Do

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ~ 1 Peter 4:8-9

What is Your Biggest Fear?