



## devotion\_closely connected

*“For his “body” has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.” Ephesians 4:16 TPT*

Our gracious loving Father has given us the gift of one another. Not only has He placed us in a natural family, but He has birthed us into a spiritual family, His family on earth, the church. His plan is for us to be “closely joined together and constantly connected as one.” Your family knows the real you. They see you when your masks are down; they know your strengths and vulnerabilities, and they should support you even when you blow it. We need to get beyond Sunday cordiality to become the real family Jesus intended. Let’s extend grace to one another, but also speak the truth in love. Love is not always a hug and pat on the back; it may be a word of correction or rebuke, but always with the highest good of the other in mind.

It all boils down to relationships. These are the “supporting ligaments” in the body that hold it together and promote effective movement. May we nurture authentic loving relationships in the family of God; be real with one another, and so serve and love one another and build up Jesus’ body, His church community.

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity ...  
... for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.” Psalm 133:1,3 NIV*

### Think on this

Do you know your part in Jesus’ body, his church community?

Are you closely connected to others in His body in authentic, loving relationships?

### Prayer

Father, open our eyes to see the beauty of your plan; that we are part of your huge global family, the church. Help us to value and honour one another, no matter our differences, and recognise that we are part of one another. May we learn to truly love one another and become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Jesus and loved us even as you loved Him, **in Jesus’ name**. Amen.