





# COMMUNITY GUIDE

November 3rd, 2024

 ethosoh.com

 @ethos\_oh

 facebook.com/ethosoh

## WEEKLY APPLICATION

**TAKEAWAY:** God has designed the church to require connections between believers.

**HEAD CHANGE:** Comparison, competition, and criticism are sins that hinder unity in the church.

**HEART CHANGE:** The body of Christ includes believers from all generations, past and present.

**LIFE CHANGE:** The body of Christ includes believers from all generations, past and present.

## OVERVIEW

Pastor Michael Young reminded us that our calling as believers is deeply connected. Drawing from Romans 12, we explored how God has designed His church to function as one body with many members. Just as we often seek direct flights in our travels, we often desire a straightforward path to our spiritual destinies. However, God's design often involves 'layovers' and connections with others. We're challenged to manage these God-ordained connections wisely, recognizing that they may come in unexpected forms or from unlikely places. This morning's message emphasized that our individual relevance and impact are rooted in our connection to the greater body of Christ - a connection that transcends time, linking us to believers throughout history. As we embrace this truth, we're called to move beyond comparison, competition, and criticism, instead fostering a culture of connection and collaboration within the body of Christ.

*"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."*

Romans 12:4-8

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How might our understanding of the body of Christ change if we truly embraced the idea that 'our calling is connected'?
2. How can we better manage the God-ordained connections in our lives, especially when they don't match our expectations or appear in unlikely places?
3. What are some practical ways we can shift from a culture of comparison and competition to one of connection and collaboration within the church?
4. What are some practical ways we can shift from a culture of comparison and competition to one of connection and collaboration within the church?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, we come to you praying for unity within your church and the broader body of Christ. God we ask you to help each of us recognize and value our connection to the whole. Amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**