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**Essential**

**Practices**

**Let God Touch Your Heart**

[Grab your reader’s attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

**The Essential Practice of Community**

*Selected Scriptures*

Pastor Kevin Snyder

Coast Hills Community Church

February 21, 2016

**Psalm 133 (NIV)**

*How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!* ***2****It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down on the collar of his robe.* ***3****It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

**God’s People**:

 Other translations use, brothers, brethren, brothers & sisters, relatives and kin.

 It is speaking of family, but something much bigger than blood.

**Unity Definition**: A state of being one single entity.

**Different uses for oil in biblical days:**

* food
* illumination
* medicinal
* Religious: connected with anointing, of a king, a priest, a prophet.
* Hospitality: guests were anointed when they arrived at a banquet, usually perfumed ointment.
* Commercial Value: principal products of ancient Palestine were, grain, wine, and olive oil. Oil was kept in royal storehouses along with gold, silver and spices.
* Figurative usage: Oil was a symbol of plenty, of luxury, of joy, and of hospitality.

**High Priest:** Symbolizes God’s blessing for his people

**Dew:** Refreshment

**Blessing/Life/Human Flourishing/Shalom**

 It is God’s plan to use humanity to bring about his kingdom.

 This is where REAL Life exists!

**So what does this mean for us?**

 We need to be intentional to make space…

 **To Belong and To Become**

 **Hebrews 10:21-25**

 **John 13:34-35**

 **1John 4:9-11**

 Community in the kingdom of God is not an affinity group.

 It is being with people that are not like me.

 The New Testament views community as a family.

 It is messy, it is raw and real.

The family (community) of God reveals God’s kingdom to a world needing to know the embrace of a loving God. God does it through real people in real relationships.

VIDEO CLIP (I will get to Kyle)

**How are we going to be available with each other?**

**How can we make space for others to “be” and “belong”?**

How are we going to be vulnerable with each other?