

REIMAGINE RESILIENCE



mercy
commons

A wooden-framed sign with the text "REIMAGINING COMMUNITY" on a dark blue background. The sign is centered and features the text in a white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark blue, textured surface with a subtle pattern of light blue lines. The sign is made of light-colored wood and has a black felt-like surface with horizontal grooves for the letters.

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Resilience (*noun*)

- The ability to **joyfully adapt, recover, and reengage** quickly without **distorting** your sense of **self**, your view of **God or His people**.

Building blocks of **Resilience**:

- ~~Failures (your own fault)~~
- ~~Suffering (not your fault)~~
- ~~Self Awareness & Emotional Regulation~~
- ~~Self Care~~
- Community
- Joy & Gratitude
- Purpose

⁷ although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles. Instead, we were **GENTLE** with you like a **NURSING MOTHER** caring for her own **CHILDREN**. ⁸ We were glad to share **NOT ONLY GOD'S GOOD NEWS** with you but **also OUR VERY LIVES** because we **cared for you so much**.

⁹ You remember, **BROTHERS AND SISTERS**, our efforts and hard work. We preached God's good news to you, while we worked night and day so we wouldn't be a burden on any of you. ¹⁰ You and God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were toward you believers.

¹¹ Likewise, you know how we treated each of you
LIKE A FATHER TREATS HIS OWN CHILDREN.

¹² We **APPEALED** to you, **ENCOURAGED** you,
and **PLEADED** with you to live lives worthy of the
God who is calling you into his own kingdom and
glory.

*Social anthropologists refer to modern America as a weak group society where the needs, goals, and desires of the individual come first. Personal allegiance to the group whether that group is my family, my church, my coworkers, or a civic organization of some sort is a secondary consideration. We tend to view the groups in our lives in a **rather utilitarian way**. These broader social entities serve as a resource that we as individuals draw on in order to realize our own goals and to navigate our own personal pathways through life.*

JOSEPH HELLERMAN
WHEN THE CHURCH WAS A FAMILY

"The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community."

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER
LIFE TOGETHER

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**Community builds resilience
through shared experiences,
shared resources and shared
convictions.**

1

Shared experiences.

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?” ³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the One who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son.

³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. **This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is NOW SIX MONTHS PREGNANT.** ³⁷ **Nothing is impossible for God.** ³⁸ Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:34-45 (CEB)

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³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and He has blessed the child you carry.

43 Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. 45 Happy is she who believed **that the Lord** would fulfill the promises He made to her.”

Luke 1:34-45 (CEB)

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1A

SHARED EXPERIENCES

Good experiences.

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months,
and then returned ...

Luke 1:56 (CEB)

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1B

SHARED EXPERIENCES

Bad experiences.

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2

Shared resources.

2A

SHARED RESOURCES

Treasure

2B

SHARED RESOURCES

Time

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2C

SHARED RESOURCES

Talents

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3

Shared convictions.

³¹ His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. ³² A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, “Look, your **mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you.**” ³³ He replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?”

³⁴ Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. ³⁵ **Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.**”

²⁵ Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

John 19:25-27 (CEB)

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27 Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

John 19:25-27 (CEB)

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8 But if **someone doesn't provide** for their own **family**, and especially for a member of their household, they have **denied the faith**. They are **worse** than those **who have no faith**.

1 Timothy 5:8 (CEB)

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3

Community doesn't
save us, Jesus does.

¹ Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. ² Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. **ACCEPT EACH OTHER WITH LOVE,** ³ and **make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit** with the peace that ties you together.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (CEB)

⁴ You are **ONE BODY** and **ONE SPIRIT**, just as God also called you in **ONE HOPE**. ⁵ There is **ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM,** ⁶ and **ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL**, who is over all, through all, and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (CEB)

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Leader

In the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, we declare our unity and our shared participation in Christ's sacrifice. We joyfully, expectantly and gratefully eat of this meal and declare:

Congregation

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Leader

**Almighty and everlasting Father, we thank
You for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious body and blood of
your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.**

Congregation

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Congregation

We are one body just as God also called us in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

Leader

We thank You that we are living members of the Body of Your Son, and heirs of Your eternal kingdom. We belong to each other.

Leader

And now, Father, send us out to do the work You have given us to do, to love and serve You, as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

Congregation

**In the name of the Father who loves us,
the Son who died for us, and the Spirit
who empowers us.**

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