

Closing The Gap Series #1
No One Can Do It Alone
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Today Glenn and I will begin a new series on what it means to close the gap in our spiritual journeys from where we are to where God would love to see us be. Casas is called by God to help us “close the gap” in our relationships with God. As the intensity and sweetness of our lives with Christ increase, the resurrected life of Christ will be lived out in our lives and ministries in the Kingdom. This series will last for the next eight Sundays. Please don’t miss a one. We are outlining God’s present and future call upon our church.

Let’s Graph What Closing The Gap Might Look Like.

The Abundant Life, The Living Water, The Resurrected Life Is The One We Want To Experience.

John 5:26: For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

John 5:39-40: You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

John 7:37-39: On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, ...

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Philippians 3:10: I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection ...

The Fruit Of The Spirit Describes The Personality Of Christ Himself—The Same Personality That He Wants To Mold Into Our Lives.

Galatians 5:22-25: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

YOU CAN’T CLOSE THE GAP IF YOU THINK THAT:

-You Can Do It Alone And Isolated From Others.
-Right Doctrine And Right Living Is Enough.
-You Know What It Is When You Don't.
-You Can Keep The Streams Of Living Water All To Yourself.
-You Are Living Like An Owner Instead Of Like A Manager.
-You Can Find Intimacy With God Without Following The Principles Of Spiritual Growth.
-Satan Is Not Deliberately Sabotaging Your Christian Life.
-Corporate Worship Is Optional.

YOU CAN'T CLOSE THE GAP IF YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN DO IT ALONE AND ISOLATED FROM OTHERS.

Even Jesus Needed Intimate Friends.

The Transfiguration

“Will you go away, too?”

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

“Can you not pray with me one hour?”

He needed help carrying His cross.

Jesus chose men who would be with him (Mark 3:14). Jesus needed those to whom He could open His heart. “No longer,” Jesus said, “do I call you servants... but I have called you friends.” (John 15:15.)

Jesus Never Let Anyone Do Anything Alone.

Mark 6:6-7: Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. The only one who did anything alone was Judas.

Jesus Ministered To Different-Sized Groups And Based His Involvement On His Intimacy Level Ministry With Each Group.

The Multitudes (Matthew 5:1-2)

The Seventy-Two (Luke 10:1-20)

The Twelve (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16)

Jesus Divided His Disciples Into Three Small Groups:

The First Group: Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John

The Second Group: Philip, Bartholomew (or Nathaniel), Thomas and Matthew

The Third Group: James the son of Alphaeus (or James the Less), Thaddaeus (or

Lebbaeus or Judas of James), Simon the Zealot, and Judas

No One Has To Try To Close The Gap While They Are Isolated And Alone. Besides, It Is Not Possible To Close It That Way Anyway.

1. Jesus placed the highest priority on His small group.
2. The only valid form of the Christian life is the one lived in community.
3. A Casas Bible Fellowship is one of the best places for Christians to learn about Christ and to love one another.
4. A Casas Bible Fellowship is one of the most practical and efficient settings to give and receive personal ministry.
5. A Casas Bible Fellowship is one of the most effective ways to close the gap in our spiritual lives from where we are to where we'd like to be.