

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 05 July: Church service.
Malcolm speaking

Sunday 12 July: Church service.
Malcolm speaking

Sunday 19 July: Church service. Danny speaking

Sunday 26 July: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 02 Aug: Church service.



We grow into the likeness of Christ not by trying harder, but by learning to love and be loved within the community of God's people.

Other Events

Friday 24th to 27th July: ICCM Preteen Camp

Saturday 25th to 31st July: ICCM Teen Camp

Saturday 20 to 24 August: Thames Valley Teen Camp

Friday 11th - 13 September: UK & Ireland Young Professionals Retreat in Chesham. Registration: <https://iccmisions.churchsuite.com/events/gtrbbmni>

Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>

Friday 30th October to Sunday 01st November: Autumn Student Retreat for the UK & Ireland.

Thursday 12-15th November: UK, Ireland and Nordics leadership retreat.

Spiritual growth does not happen primarily through information. Sound teaching, biblical knowledge, and faithful preaching are essential, but they are not enough on their own to form Christlike character. The authors argue that God designed us to grow through relationships.

One another

This is not surprising. The New Testament is filled with "one another" commands. Jesus said, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). He went on to say that our love for one another would be a crucial mark of authentic discipleship. Christian growth was never intended to be a solo project.

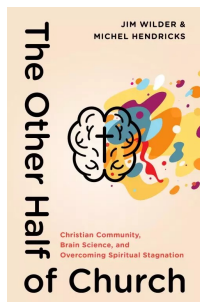
Relational attachment

The authors claim that, "People change through relational attachment much more than by winning an argument." Certainly, truth matters. But truth is most transformative when it is lived out in loving relationships. This is why Hebrews 10:24-25 urges believers to meet together regularly and to "encourage one another" as we grow in faith.

Joy

The book places particular emphasis on joy-filled relationships. Wilder and Hendricks write, "Joy is relational. It is what we feel when we are with someone who is happy to be with us." In other words, joy is not merely an emotion we experience individually. It is something that grows in the context of healthy relationships. When people feel welcomed, valued, and known, they become more resilient, more secure, and more open to growth.

Why We Need One Another



Some thoughts based on notes I made on the book, The Other Half of Church, by Jim Wilder and Michel Hendricks.

Share the burdens

This has important implications for our congregation. A warm conversation after a service, sharing a meal together, visiting someone who is struggling, or taking time to listen carefully can have a deeper spiritual impact than we realise. Galatians 6:2 tells us to “carry each other’s burdens,” reminding us that God never intended us to face life’s challenges alone. The church is called to be a community where people are supported, encouraged, and strengthened through the presence of others.

Love changes us

The authors summarise their central insight in a simple sentence: “Our brains are designed to change us through love.” This echoes Jesus’ picture in John 15, where believers are called to remain connected to Him as branches remain connected to the vine. Spiritual life flows through relationship. As we remain connected to Christ and to one another, we grow into the people God intends us to be.

Perhaps this is a good question for all of us to consider: Are we simply attending the same services, or are we intentionally building relationships with one another? The health of a church is measured by more than attendance figures or programmes. It is seen in the quality of the relationships that exist within it. As we invest in one another, we create an environment where faith deepens, burdens are shared, and Christlike character is formed. God never intended us to grow alone. He calls us to grow together.

Questions for Reflection

1. Who in our church helps me experience the kind of encouragement and joy described in this article?
2. Am I intentionally building relationships within the congregation, or am I primarily attending services and activities?
3. Is there someone in our church who may be carrying a burden alone and could benefit from a visit, phone call, or conversation this week?
4. How can I better obey Jesus’ command to “love one another” in practical ways?

5. What steps can I take to become someone who helps others feel welcomed, valued, and known?

6. Are there opportunities for deeper fellowship, hospitality, or service that I have been overlooking?

7. What would change in our congregation if every member made it a priority to encourage and build up at least one other person each week?

Your brother, Malcolm

A link to the one another passages:

<https://www.malcolmcox.org/the-one-another-commands~59/>



Articles

If anyone would like to contribute to the Watford Word please let me know. Articles about scripture, poetry, personal devotional reflections, good news, prayer requests, testimonials and more are all welcome.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613



Watford

Media

