



PORTLAND
fellowship

Dear Fellowship Partners,

update june 2012

“God calls us to walk in honesty and integrity. Confession is key to living a victorious life. At the cross of Christ we find liberation from our sinful past. Through relationships, we receive the encouragement to maintain a pure life.” This is a core value of Portland Fellowship. Every bit of ministry that is done by Portland Fellowship is colored by the truth of this belief. However, one arm of ministry here at PF where this core belief takes on the greatest dimension, I believe, is our Upper Room Community.

The Upper Room is a live-in discipleship community that, every year, men and women come to Portland Fellowship to live together in intentional community for nine months, participating in teaching and mentoring geared towards continued emotional and relational healing, spiritual disciplines, and personal development. Although the instruction and counseling that each receive is beneficial, the most life changing element of this experience is the relational dynamic of living in community. The majority of the wounds that people walk into Portland Fellowship with were created in the context of relationship, and it is only in relationship that those wounds can effectively heal. The Upper Room provides a context where that relational healing can occur.



This year's upper room community (Top left - Cody, Brandon, Omar, bottom left, Paul, Chris)

The truth is that, although as a ministry we can provide an environment where relational healing and mutual discipleship can occur (think Proverbs 27:17), we can't make that healing happen. Those who are in the Upper Room have to choose to walk humbly and receptively to the sharpening of the relationships in the community. 2 Peter 1:5-8, states: “Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We are reminded of the importance of intentional effort towards Christ-like attitudes and behavior, and how this effort helps us know Christ more intimately and effectively. This scripture highlights a number of character qualities that we are to strive towards, qualities that are most effectively demonstrated and attained within relationship. This is not always easy. In fact, it is a constant challenge to not let minor offences, or personality conflicts, rob a community of its healing power, especially when these “minor offences” rub up against significant personal wounds. That is the risk, and opportunity, that the Upper Room presents. Will we make “every effort”

“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners.”

ISAIAH 61 : 1

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to demonstrate the character of Christ towards one another even when we offend each other?

This year the men in our Upper Room Community faced many relational challenges, and they had to choose whether they would respond with Christ like character, or respond out of their wounds and immaturity. I am delighted to report that, for the most part, these challenges were met with a desire to reflect Christ to one another. It has been a beautiful experience watching the Lord heal and sharpen these men through their interactions and conflicts with one another. These difficult moments, which could have been destructive, became moments of honest confession as this community held one another up in love and grace. It has been amazing to be a part of God's purpose for this community.

I have loved my year with these men, and am blessed and encouraged with the work that the Holy Spirit has done in and among each of us. I am excited to see what the next year of the Upper Room will bring. Several of the men from this year have requested the chance to continue their journey towards Christ-likeness as a part of this community next year, so we will see what Christ has yet to reveal and refine in them. Pray for this community as they continue to live life together in honesty, and integrity, encouraging one another in a pure life.

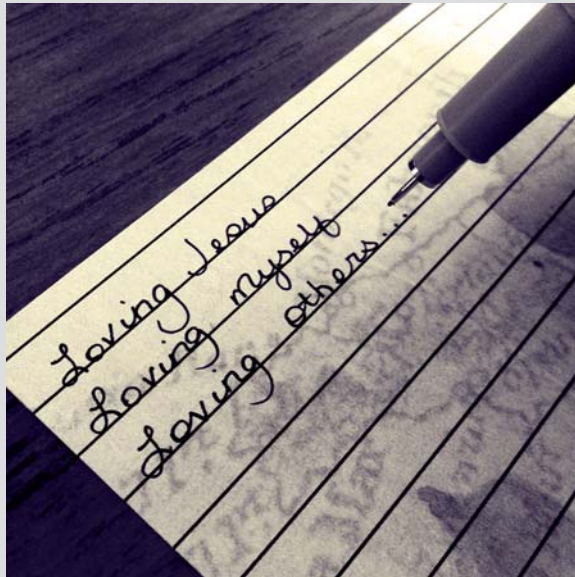
In Christ



Drew Berryessa
Program Manager

The Greatest Commandment - Phil Hobizal

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one", answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:28-31



Often times our life as Christians is crowded with all the various activities we feel are necessary to live a Godly life. What if the answer to following Jesus was as simple as the answer He gave the inquiring scholar? - Loving God and others. In this series we will take apart His response and see what we can learn about loving and serving God in a way that will transform our lives. Series led by Phil Hobizal, founder of PF.

Join us Tuesday nights (July 10- Aug 28) for worship, interactive teaching and prayer.

portland fellowship is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 nondenominational organization. We are exclusively supported through private donations, support services, and offerings. Thank you for your gifts.

events calendar

june 1-3

upper room retreat

Drew and Jason will take the Upper Room Community on a retreat to celebrate the completion of the program.

june 15

Family and Friends Group

For those who have a loved one involved in homosexuality and want guidance, encouragement, and personal support 7 p.m.

tuesday nights

july 10- Aug 28

Summer Series

Teacher: Phil Hobizal
PF Founder

july 16 - 28

Jason will be traveling to Ecuador to present teachings at seminar events.

Check website for additional updates at www.portlandfellowship.com