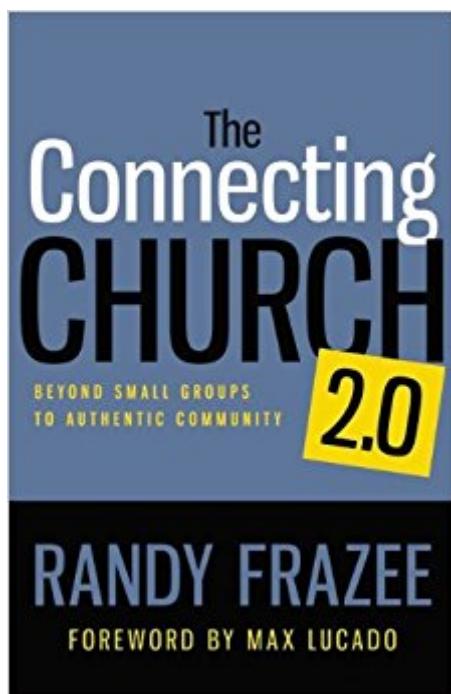


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# The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups To Authentic Community



## **Synopsis**

The development of meaningful relationships, where every member carries a significant sense of belonging, is central to what it means to be the church. So why do many Christians feel disappointed and disillusioned with their efforts to experience authentic community? Despite the best efforts of pastors, small group leaders and faithful lay persons, church is too often a place of loneliness rather than connection. In this revised and updated version of his bestselling book, Randy Frazee shows us how church can be so muchâ€”betterâ€”more intimate and alive. The answer may seem radical today, but it was a central component of life in the early church. First-century Christians knew what it meant to live in vital community with one another, relating with a depth and commitment that made "the body of Christ" a perfect metaphor for the church. What would it take to reclaim that kind of love, joy, support, and dynamic spiritual growth? Read this book and find out.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Randy Frazee is the senior minister at Oak Hills Church, one of the largest churches in America, leading alongside author and pastor Max Lucado. A leader and innovator in spiritual formation and biblical community, Randy is the architect of The Story church engagement campaign. He is also the author of The Heart of the Story, The Connecting Church 2.0, and The Christian Life Profile Assessment. He and his wife, Rozanne, live in San Antonio.

I bought the Kindle version. Something new for me, since I can't loan it to anyone, something I

always do. This book caught my eye when I was doing some research for our small groups ministry for our church. Rev. Frazee "sees" the needs of the church at her most basic, with sight that few of us ask for, or are willing to use. He lays out the need for connection in each human being, then develops a plan for connectivity that addresses that need, and then shows how implementation of that plan is not quite as easy as envisioned. Regardless of his or our intentions, God works through us and will as Jesus stated "build His church". It is obvious that the author was led to write and then to do. And this is obviously a labor of obedience and love, that has born "much fruit". I found the book a relatively easy read, with deep concepts that practically anyone desiring to grow can utilize. This book confirmed some of what I have been thinking about where we as a church "could" go in terms of fellowship and growth with God and each other. I got through the first chapter and was very excited about what I was reading. I told a friend about the book, and he got it and started to read it, and within two days was further through the book than I was. Whatever you do, don't stop reading until you complete reading all the references the author utilizes. Are the actions taken by the author in support of the lifestyle that he espouses readily translatable to most Christians and most churches? I don't think most of us can sell our homes and move to a different neighborhood and do what he and his family did. And the author is careful to express his thoughts that most of us can not do what he did in putting his words into actions, but some of us can. That said, all of us can be more available to our neighbors, we can make the effort to reach out and touch other people and their lives. We can be more supportive and inclusive of others into our lives. Jesus asked a group of disciples "who is my neighbor". Rev. Frazee answers that very clearly, and shows that missional work does truly begin with home and hearth, and then reaches out from there to the world, one person at a time. And he shows that it takes time, energy, effort and consistency. If you want to read a book that will change your outlook and life, read this book, if not, read another book. If you want to see a glimpse of what life was for the Church in 35-40 AD and you want to live a life devoted to spreading the Word, and ministering and sharing the Gospel by actions, then read this book, put it next to your Bible and keep it there to read and re-read and re-read. Do you want to envision what the world could be if we Christians would stop being so selfish, self centered, morally superior, hypocritical and individualistic and would humbly and honestly share the greatest gift ever given to man, then read, study and apply what you can from this book and the Bible. I did not receive this book for review. I bought it with my own money, and have been so impressed with it that I have recommended it to several close deeply spiritual friends, and so far everyone has not only received well the suggestion to get the book but responded very positively to what they have so far read in the book. My thanks to the author and his family for their faith and trust to follow their King and do as

He directed.

About fifteen years ago, I became very uneasy about the organization of church in a couple of medium-sized churches. A vision of what church should be began to emerge, primarily from my reading and re-reading the Bible. I read several books by prominent Christian authors which re-inforced many of my views, and I began to focus my work in the church on re-defining discipleship. The Connecting Church again reinforced those views - hitting every major point. I can't think of a single work outside of the Bible that has invigorated me so to work towards my vision of making Disciples for Jesus that saturate their neighborhoods with the love of Jesus.

This book is so helpful and practical. I feel that, although there are a lot of ideas in it, I could actually implement this. It made me excited about building community in my neighborhood and gave practical ways to do so and backed with research. I would highly recommend this book to pastors, ministers, and anyone who lives in a neighborhood or wants to build community in their own life.

Randy is brilliant and this book is exactly how I've dreamt church should be. Would hope any pastor planting a church or trying to reform one would read this!

This book is a must for understanding true community. One that needs to be shared. We're reading it in small group

Amazing must read. I now understand better the root behind ineffective ministry. It is so simple yet accurate.

Really made me think about how our church is very deliberate about reaching newcomers and getting them to connect! How can I connect better with the people that are like I used to be alone.

This is a great book for a small group wanting to understand community as God intended. It caused us to rethink where we live and what we do. Awesome.

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