

community that such associations create.

In every activity, we must distinguish between participation and involvement. The Christian life is the same way. You might attend church from time to time, and fish out a devotional when you need a spiritual jolt.

But you also need to get involved! Sure, involvement costs, but it is also an investment. As you invest yourself in the spiritual life of your church, you are building connectedness-- and that benefits you and the Christians around you.

God designed the body of Christ to be just that-- a body. We are not supposed to be a test tube, filled with one-celled organisms-- amoebas occasionally swimming past each other. We are one body, which gains strength when we work as one.

So what are you doing with your time? Consider increasing your investment in your local church. That is one 'mutual fund' that promises great returns, for you *and* those around you!

## REFLECTION

- How "connected" am I? Do I tend to be a "joiner" or a "loner"? Why?
- How does God want me to invest my involvement today?
- *Lord, I thank You for surrounding me with fellow believers. Show me ways to invest myself to make Your body stronger.*

**It's hard to fellowship by yourself.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## NOVEMBER 26, 2017

### Bowling Alone

*"The problem with the United States is that people are bowling more, but membership in bowling leagues is decreasing."*

Okay, maybe that's not the only problem in the US-- but it is a conclusion of Robert D. Putnam from Harvard University.

Putnam's point, in fact, is a little more complex. He points out that, historically, we in the west, have had a reputation for gathering-- town meetings, company picnics, groups like the Rotary club. As society has changed, however, we have lost our connectedness-- in the public arena, in social contacts, and even in spiritual matters. The result is a loss of



Insights for Living  
Connecting



In Philippians 1:3-11 Paul models for us two attitudes that connect with others:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ for each other, 1:3-8

(Galatians 3:3) "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"

(Romans 8:30) "Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

END OF CONSTRUCTION  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
PATIENCE

2. \_\_\_\_\_ for each other, 1:9-11

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8) "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; {5} does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; {6} does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all

things, endures all things. {8} Love never fails. ..."

(Galatians 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

