



GCI *Buzz*

What is: **Place- Sharing?**

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place-shar·ing

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/plās/ /SHerING/

Verb

1. a posture of relating where one shares the “place” of another; a deeply relational posture of ministry

a) Jesus is the true place-sharer of all of humanity; in his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension, he shares the “place” of all humanity

b) The human place-sharer participates in Jesus’ ongoing ministry of place-sharing

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Could look like:

1. Being fully present to the lived reality of another, the good, the bad, and the ugly
2. Approaching relationships, not as a means of influence, but as an experience of with-ness; this human with-ness of relationship is itself ministry, not a vehicle to the “next thing” (church attendance, adoption of Christian ideals, behavioral modification, etc.)

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Framework:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?

- He is **incarnate**: The place-sharer participates in the reality of solidarity with God and one another in Christ.
- He is **crucified**: The place-sharer accepts the challenges of sharing the place of another.
- He is **resurrected**: The place-sharer proclaims a transformed humanity in the risen Christ and affirms identity in Christ, receiving the freedom to live boldly for God and one another

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Framework Continued:

2. Where is Jesus Christ?

Jesus is concretely present in human relationships both in the Church community and in all the world.

3. What then shall we do?

Participate in the who and where of Jesus through the practice of place-sharing. While place-sharing develops deep relationships in the good, the bad, and the ugly, it also maintains boundaries. I must remain a distinct “I” and you must remain a distinct “you” for place-sharing to take place. I become more myself (the reality of who I am in Christ) the more I encounter another (participate in Jesus’ ministry of place-sharing).

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Final Thoughts:

The gospel proclaims that the incarnate Son of God, through the Holy Spirit, is sharing the “place” or life situation with every person on earth and is at work, acting on their behalf. **Hearing and listening to Jesus’ voice, allows us to actively join Jesus in what he is doing.** Discerning the nature of his ongoing place-sharing activity in the world around us and the nature of his call to us as a community of believers, permits and empowers us to join in. This participation is not a pre-packaged, one-size-fits-all program. Rather, it is a dynamic, active lifestyle that involves us in Jesus’ missional life, being lived out through the Holy Spirit in us and in our world.

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Reference:

Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From
a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of
Incarnation

By: Andrew Root

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