

## My *Father's* Wisdom

I love the concept of the little communities along Hwy 380. To be sure, we are all blessed by the relationships we have found in each of our communities. Yet, often times the unity in *community* still seems to be a struggle in our little suburban blessings.

My *father* once told me, "Love your neighbors as yourself." Usually *he* followed this up by some variation of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Could there be any greater understanding of what it means to live in community than this? To love and to do for others, as I would hope others might do for me.

Our culture would have us believe that love of self is where it's at, that getting ahead at all costs (even to the detriment of marriages, family and friendships) is the status quo of moving up the ladder of success. I remember in my former career using the WIIFM ("What's In It For Me?") principle to sell others my product. Hence, today I am no longer in sales. Likewise, we consumers are driven all too often by WIIFM in our own life. Often this leads us to raise ourselves above our neighbors.

What we have in these two paragraphs are two very different ideas that struggle to coexist together and often contradict the nature of community. In the first case, we place others above ourselves. In the second, we raise our own wants and desires above others shortchanging ourselves on the rich rewards that come from living in a unified community. And so, it is my hope that we may renew our commitment to living in community, to find in all people here in Savannah, Providence and all along the 380 corridor a renewed love for our neighbor above and beyond the WIIFM of our own lives. For this is truly our created and intended human nature, community. More to come...

–Les McDaniel

*Les McDaniel is a minister at **VineLife Church**. We are a loving and growing house church currently meeting at 1120 Haley Court, Savannah, TX. **We meet every Saturday at 5:00 PM for a BBQ cookout followed by a time of worship and praise at 6:30.** If you are interested in visiting our community within community, please visit our website for more details <http://vinelifechurch.com> OR contact us by phone, 940.230.1851 or by email, [les@vinelifechurch.com](mailto:les@vinelifechurch.com).*