

The word "connecting" is written in a bold, sans-serif font with each letter in a different color. The letters are: 'c' (dark green), 'o' (purple), 'n' (pink), 'n' (pink), 'e' (yellow), 'c' (dark green), 't' (orange), 'i' (grey), 'n' (pink), and 'g' (blue). The background is white with a light green border at the top and bottom, and several colorful, semi-transparent circles of various sizes scattered throughout.

connecting

For as a **BELT** is bound around a man's waist, so I bound the house of Israel and Judah to me ... to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. (*Jeremiah 13:11*)







Proximity. Affinity. Unity.
Continuity. Intimacy.

*The belt wraps the **clothing** and **person** into a harmony of size, look, function, and form.

A belt is an instrument which draws (and holds) objects **together.**

OUR PURPOSE

- to draw people into **relationship** with God, to **bring** them near and **keep** them near in fellowship.

- ✓ **teach** people about God
- ✓ **turn** their attention toward God
- ✓ **tell** people the truth of God
- ✓ **teach** them with the love of God

Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

Now if someone who does not understand or some unbeliever comes into your meeting, while everyone is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner.

(1 Corinthians 14:24)

PARADOX.

We are the BODY of Christ
and we are the BELT by which
God connects unsaved people
to the body of Christ.

Connections ...

Chamber of Commerce > business

Peace Corps > service projects

Food Pantry > food

Head Hunters > job

e Harmony > date

Otterbein > God

But food does not **bring us near** to God. We are no worse if we do not eat, no better if we do. (*1 Corinthians 8:8*)

We connect people with God
in (at) church.

We connect people with God
through the church.

We connect people with God
because we are the church.

HOW?

- **Explanation** – the message
- **Encouragement** – my influence and love
- **Example** – showing the difference God makes to you