

The Call to Community

Church Challenge – Hospitality

Call to Live in Community – 3 Weeks

Last Week:

1. We Need Each Other
2. Takes a Determined Effort
3. Strengthen One Another in God
4. Point to God's Promises

Goal – encourage biblical life togetherness in our body

- risk, reveal, invest, grow, serve, love, together

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Early Church Example:

- large group gathering with small group participation
- 3000 people added on day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
- 5000 men added later (Acts 4:4)
- Acts 2:42,46 ***“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer..... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,”***
- Gathering in large groups – praise, prayer, Word of God
- Finding fellowship in smaller groups

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- small gatherings within the larger community the Key

1. Jesus and His Followers

- from hundreds of followers picked 72 for a role in ministry teams (Luke 10:1ff)
- chose 12 to have close partnership in life and ministry – be trained as disciples (Mark 3:14)
- had a close bond with three – Peter, James & John.
 - Mark 5:37, Mark 9:2, Mark 14:33
- see a unique bond with John – referred to 5 times as ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’.

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- Jesus modeled levels of relationship & sent his followers out to serve in teams

- Luke 10:1ff ***“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go”***

2. Paul’s Pattern

- Acts 13:2 ***“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”***

- Acts 14:23 ***“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders[\[a\]](#) for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. “***

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- when conflict about how to treat John Mark – pattern is continued as they form new teams with the blessing of the church.

- Acts 15:39-40 ***“They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.”***

3. The New Testament Language of Life Together

- John 13:34-35 ***“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”***

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- Paul on this theme:

- a) 'we aremembers of one another' Rom 12:5
- b) 'Love one another with brotherly affection' Rom. 12:10
- c) 'outdo one another in showing honor' Rom. 12:10
- d) 'pursue.....for up building one another' Rom. 14:19
- e) 'instruct one another' Rom. 15:14
- f) 'have the same care for one another' 1 Cor. 12:25
- g) 'through love serve one another' Gal. 5:13
- f) 'bear one another's burdens' Gal 6:2
- h) 'with patience, endure one another in love' Eph. 4:2

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i) 'be kind to one another' Eph. 4:32

j) 'submit to one another out to reverence for Christ' Eph. 5:21

k) 'in humility consider others above self' Phil. 2:3

l) 'do not lie to one another' Col 3:9

m) 'encourage one another' 1 Thess 4:18

n) 'always seek to do good to one another' 1 Thess. 5:15

Book of Hebrews – 10:24 ***“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, “***

James – 'do not speak evil to one another' (4:11), 'don't grumble against one another' (5:9), 'confess your sin to one another' (5:16), 'pray for one another' (5:16)

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- Peter – ‘show hospitality to one another without grumbling’ (4:9), clothe yourselves in humility toward one another’ (5:5)

*Obvious Conclusion – that loving, Christ-exalting personal relationships were part of essential Christian living.

4. The Horizontal Relationships Reflect God

- important to recognize – how we do community, relationship, life together – important to God

- Rom. 15:5-7 ***“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. “***

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- 1 John 3:10 ***“This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.***

- 1 John 4:7-8 ***“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.***

- 1 John 4:12 ***“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.***

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- 1 John 4:15-17 *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear”*

- the relationships between believers are of critical importance. Designed to need one another, serve one another, bear one another, we reflect God when we do this well, and He is glorified.

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So What

1. The Example of Jesus – community
2. The Example of the Early Church – community
3. The Language of the New Testament – community
4. The Reflection of God – love for one another
 - how we do community
5. Will you prepare your heart, change your schedule, invest in this important role for the follower of Jesus?

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