

SUMMER SERIES: WHY THIS MATTERS



**WHY
BIBLICAL
COMMUNITY MATTERS**

JULY 20TH

WHY BIBLICAL COMMUNITY MATTERS

Summer Series: Why this Matters

- A look into why we do what we do
- An understanding of why we are committed to a few essential things at our church and doing them well
- A realization that simplicity helps us keep the main thing the main thing while complexity often leads us away from the main thing
- Last week: *Why the Gospel Matters*

WHY BIBLICAL COMMUNITY MATTERS

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What is Biblical Community?

- Relationships between Christians that are built on biblical principles and mutual submission with the purpose of glorifying God and maturing in faith (holy living)
- Biblical community is always a product of the gospel and is based on what Christ did for us as this is what our common ground always is
- Biblical community is the reflection of God's people living as the unified body of Christ... we are his building, his field, his temple! (1 Cor 3:16; 1 Pet 2:4-5)

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What is Biblical Community?

Two Types...

1. Large group – of believers meeting to worship and bring glory to God
2. Small Group – gatherings throughout the week

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What is Biblical Community?

Acts 2:42, 46, 47...

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...

⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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Why Biblical Community Matters...

Romans 12:3-13...

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

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Why Biblical Community Matters...

⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

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Why Biblical Community Matters...

- 1. God primarily uses transformed communities to impact a culture rather than individuals**
 - Paul went from city to city looking to start local bodies of believers (transformed communities) not simply individual converts
 - We are to function as a body
 - The main reason for these communities having such an impact was Spirit-filled people loving God and one another who were dedicated to sharing the gospel with the people in their cities

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Why Biblical Community Matters...

- 1. God primarily uses transformed communities to impact a culture rather than individuals**
- 2. Spiritual Maturity is Dependent on Community**
 - We cannot expect to grow in our faith in isolation (faith is personal, not private)
 - God designed us (his church) to need one another
 - Biblical community is God's primary environment for spiritual formation
 - We need to be known to grow – maturity only happens when you get serious about putting your sin to death
 - Gateway to fulfill the 50+ “One another” commands

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Why Biblical Community Matters...

- 1. God primarily uses transformed communities to impact a culture rather than individuals**
- 2. Spiritual Maturity is Dependent on Community**
- 3. Gateway to fulfill the 50+ “One another” commands**
 - God calls us to serve one another, love one another, forgive one another, be kind to one another, care for one another, hurt for one another, rejoice with one another, etc.**

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Why Biblical Community Matters to You

- 1. God desires to use this community to impact Cold Lake and our world**
- 2. Your spiritual maturity is dependent on community**
 - Don't confuse "going to church" with belonging to a community of faith**
 - Be intentional – seek out biblical community!**
 - Make maturing in your faith a priority**
 - How? Community groups, meet with 2 others, commit to being known by others and being accountable to them**
 - Our job is to equip and provide the environment for you to grow. Your job is to engage in that process.**

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