

## “Community Is...”

Acts 2:44-46

- I. Introduction
  - A. At times, our Christian walk can be difficult and mundane
  - B. Learning to be more intentional and disciplined in our daily walk can help us to grow
    1. Reading the Bible daily
    2. Praying daily
    3. Spending time with other Christians regularly
  - C. At its core, the church is simply a community
- II. Life Together (v. 44 “*Now all who believed were together*”)
  - A. People today are searching for a place to belong—a place where they can be safe, be loved, and love others; this is what church should be
  - B. Greek word *koinónia*
    1. Means *fellowship* (communion, partnership) and was used to describe the early church
    2. *Koinónia* principle: God’s people take care of each other
  - C. God has a unique plan and place for His church in this world
    1. *Ekklésia* literally means *to call out and to be called to*
    2. The church is called out of this sinful, worldly system, and as Christians, we are called to gather together
  - D. Our identity as followers of Christ should be rooted in our proximity to one another (see John 13:35)
    1. We can’t use the hurt that someone has done to us to relegate the church to our past
    2. If your theology separates you from those like you, you’ve got some work to do
- III. In the House (v. 46 “*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple*”)
  - A. It’s not an option for Christians to take or leave community; it’s a command to participate, and it allows God to work through His church
  - B. Church should be an oasis, reviving and equipping us for the coming week
  - C. One of the problems in the church today is the attitude of consumer rather than servant
  - D. The purpose of the church is:
    1. To honor God
    2. To teach the Word
    3. To proclaim the gospel
  - E. The beauty of the church is its diversity—people from different walks of life, different life stages, different races, etc.; our commonality as the church should be found in the person of Jesus Christ

1. Uncommon fellowship is the kind of fellowship God wants for His church
  2. Uncommon fellowship makes little of men and much of Jesus (see Galatians 3:26)
- IV. And Your House (v. 46 “*and breaking bread from house to house*”)
- A. Your only interaction with other believers should not be once or twice every week
  - B. “The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God’s people—strengthened by preaching and sacrament—go out of the church door into the world to be the church. We don’t go to church; we are the church” —Ernest Southcott
  - C. We were created for community; we were not meant to be isolated
  - D. Our capacity for community started with our creation
- V. Conclusion
- A. Community is about God; our relationships with other Christians should reflect our relationship with the Lord
  - B. The church should be the most inviting, refreshing, and compelling representation of community in our world

**Figures referenced:** Ernest Southcott

**Greek words:** *ekklésia, koinónia*

**Cross references:** John 13:35; Galatians 3:26

**Topic:** fellowship

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