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COMMUNITY

(Authentic Biblical Community)

Jesus calls us to share life together in biblical community with other believers. This call cuts against the grain of our culture. In our society where we so value individualism and independence, we have come to view our spiritual walk as primarily an individual journey. As Christians, however, Jesus intended for us to be known by our close relationships with other believers as we share life together and live out the “one anothers” of Scripture. Community is at the heart of what it is to be the people of God.

STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Read John 13:34-35

In what way is this commandment new? How does it differ from past commandments?

Why do you think Jesus would leave this commandment as the marker of identifying his followers?

Read John 17:20-21

Jesus is praying on the night before his crucifixion. He is praying for all those who would come to faith through the testimony of the Apostles. He is praying for us! What is it Jesus is asking for on our behalf? What do you think that means?

How is the type of unity Jesus is talking about so different that it specifically lets the world know that Jesus is God’s son?

Read Acts 2:42-47

In what ways is this passage similar to our experience with church today? In what ways does it appear different?

One Another's

There are over 20 “One Another’s” found in Scripture. Identify as a group the “One Another” command in each of these verses.

Gal 5:13

Gal 6:2

Eph 4:32

Col 3:12-13

1 Thess 5:11

1 Pet 4:9

1 John 3:23

Application Questions

As a result of numerous polls, George Gallup declared that Americans are among the loneliest people on earth. Is that consistent with your own observations and experiences? Elaborate.

How would you describe community? What are some of the characteristics of community?

Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "Community that is not concerned with seeing lost individuals outside the community being brought inside and becoming part of the community is not biblical community"? Why do you agree or disagree?

What are the limits or obstacles to the depth of relationships we have as believers? How can we overcome them?