



Sermon Outline: Built to Last – Week 3

Title: Community

Core Belief Statement

We want to foster a vibrant community, encouraging one another to engage, both at church and in our local area.

Introduction

- Recap of last week's focus on John 6 and the challenging teachings of Jesus.
 - Transition to the necessity of true discipleship and community within the body of Christ.
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I. Jesus' Challenging Message (John 6)

Key Points:

1. **The Bread that Satisfies** (John 6:32-34)
 - Chasing temporary "bread" will never satisfy; only the Bread of Life will.
2. **Invitation of the Father** (John 6:35-40)

- Jesus gives eternal life to those given to Him by the Father.
- 3. **Partaking in Christ's Sacrifice** (John 6:54-58)
 - Communion symbolizes our acceptance of His body and blood poured out for us.

Application: True discipleship requires embracing Jesus' sacrifice and teachings, no matter how difficult.

II. Walking in Community as Disciples

Key Verses: John 15:1-6, John 17:9-11, 20-23

1. **Remaining Connected to the Vine** (John 15)
 - Jesus emphasizes the importance of connection and cultivation for fruitfulness.
 2. **Unity Through Jesus' Prayer** (John 17)
 - Jesus prays for unity among His followers, reflecting the oneness of the Father and the Son.
 - Unity glorifies God and is a testimony to the world.
 3. **Counter-Cultural Community**
 - Individualism versus unity: The call to oneness challenges societal norms.
 - Psalm 139 reminds us of our unique design by God, but also our shared purpose in Him.
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III. Lessons from Cultivation

- **Historical Examples:**
 - Lord Charles Townshend's crop rotation system enriched the soil for future harvests.
 - George Washington Carver taught southern farmers to diversify crops for sustainability and nourishment.
 - **Spiritual Application:**
 - Our unique contributions enrich the community of faith.
 - Like fields and crops, God calls us to cultivate and bear fruit together.
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IV. Finding Your Place in the Body of Christ

Key Verses: Romans 12:3-13, 1 Corinthians 12:6-8

1. **Recognizing Our Gifts**
 - Each of us has been given gifts to serve the body of Christ.
 - Examples: Prophecy, teaching, encouragement, serving, generosity, leadership, kindness.

2. **Behaving Like a Christian**

- Genuine love, hospitality, patience, and enthusiasm in serving (Romans 12:9-13).
- Community thrives when we live out Christ-like behavior.

3. **Belonging to One Another**

- Romans 12:5: "We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."
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V. Closing Challenge

1. **Reflective Questions:**

- What is my place in this community?
- Where is God calling me to bear fruit?
- Who do I need to connect with to grow and cultivate the fields?

2. **Prayer Focus:**

- Seek God's direction for your role in His community.
 - Pray for unity, connection, and a willingness to contribute your gifts to His body.
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Conclusion

- Community is critical to God's blueprint for His church.
 - By connecting and cultivating together, we build something that lasts.
 - Let's commit to behaving like Christians, fostering unity, and bearing fruit for God's glory.
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Closing Scripture: Romans 12:4-5 – "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."