



“By This They Will Know”

John 13:31-35, Acts 2:42-47

Sunday | September 22nd, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

John 13:31-35

Acts 2:42-47

(See also Ex. 6:7, Rev. 21:3, Titus 2:11-14)

DISCUSS

1. Randy Frazee identified five characteristics of community: (1) Spontaneity, (2) availability, (3) Frequency, (4) sharing meals, (5) geography. Which compels you the most? What is your biggest hindrance?

2. Read John 13:31-35 and discuss both the relational and missional implications of this command. How does this particular to love one another challenge you?
3. Read Ex. 6:7, Rev. 21:3, and Titus 2:11-14 and discuss. What do these verse have in common? What do we learn about the mission of God from these passages?
4. Read the following quote and discuss. What stands out to you?

John Stott—

“The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God’s new community. For his purpose, conceived in a past eternity, being worked out in history, and to be perfected in a future eternity, is not just to save isolated individuals and so perpetuate loneliness, but rather to build his church, that is, to call out of the world a people for his own glory.”

(Stott, John; The Living Church; Inter-Varsity Press; Nottingham, UK; 2007; pp. 19-20 as quoted by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis [Total Church; p. 39])

5. Read Acts 2:42-47 and discuss. It says that they “devoted themselves” to (1) the Apostles teaching, (2) fellowship, (3) the breaking of bread, and (4) prayer. What does it mean to be “devoted?” What is it about our culture that makes “devotion” to community so difficult?

6. The word “fellowship” in the original language (*koinonia*) literally means “participation.” How does that challenge you with regards to the church and to “fellowship.”

7. What’s your next move in light of this sermon?