



Sermon Series: Holy Habits Week 2

Sermon Title: Community

Date: 2/4/2024

Hebrews 10:25

Big Idea: Nothing Can Substitute A Christ-Centered Community.

1. Community is a non-negotiable to discipleship

When the soil of a Christ-centered community isn't at the heart of a church, people won't take root. Isolation and Sanctification do not mix.

In **Matthew 4:18-22** we see Jesus modeling His desire for people to follow him. It's here we see Jesus calling his first disciples into *his community*.

Looking at the ministry of Jesus, it's clear that Jesus didn't just call one guy or even try to accomplish his ministry alone. Jesus called a community of disciples to walk with him and live alongside him through sorrow, joy, meals, and adventures. He had the 12 disciples and the wider group of 70.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sent out his 12 disciples to serve with power and authority to preach, heal, and minister in his name and in community.

Matthew 10:5-8

In the New Testament letters, we see followers of Jesus being described as family. Through faith in Christ, we are adopted by God into his household as sons and daughters. We need both a vertical relationship with God through Christ and a horizontal relationship with fellow members of God's family.

2. Christ-centered community is *life-giving*,

We need to form a Good Habit of surrounding ourselves with a life-giving community. **Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.**

We *all* need friends who are so close to us they're basically family. A life-giving community is what you were made for. What do your relationships say about you?

God desires that your community would reflect what the Apostle Paul says in [Ephesians 4:2-6](#). We cannot exist well or flourish to our full potential without life-giving communion with other human souls and other parts of the body.

Relationships are foundational to who you are and how you navigate each day. You simply will not thrive long-term without the blessing of life-giving connections to other people.

3. Real Community Takes work.

[Acts 2:42-47](#)

This is the beautiful ideal of community within the Christian Context, but this doesn't come without hard conversations and messy circumstances. Community powerfully exposes our "shadow side," a concept used by author and pastor Pete Scazzero, the writer of Emotionally Healthy Discipleship.

Your shadow side is the part of you that has all the untamed emotions, mixed motives, disordered desires, and out-of-alignment impulses you don't want anyone to see and might not even be fully aware of. It's in the intimacy and consistency of close relationships that our shadow side inevitably comes out over time. Alongside that exposure, it also provides the best context for encouragement, accountability, healing, and gradual inner transformation into the likeness of Jesus.

To quote social scientist Courtney Martin, "Intentional community requires shared space and time. It requires a genuine commitment to slowing down."

Real soul-shaping community will rarely emerge spontaneously. It requires grit, initiative, and perseverance to create new habits that feel unnatural at first, but reap rewards over years.

Let's commit to forming a habit of community because we know that Nothing can substitute a Christ-centered community.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Does social media primarily have a positive or negative impact on building community? Explain**
- **What are some hindrances to building community?**
- **Why are some people resistant to building community. Are their reasons valid? Explain**
- **If community is so essential in our lives, why does it require effort?**
- **Describe how you have personally benefited from community.**