

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

CORE

8 Essentials for the Church

Community

Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 2:11-22

1/19/2020

KOINONIA

- Biblical fellowship (koinonia) **WHOLE**-life **SHARING**.
(2 Corinthians 13:14)

WHAT WE WERE

- If you are without God, and without hope, you are spiritually **HOMELESS**.

WHAT WE ARE

- Fellow **CITIZENS**.
- Members of God's **FAMILY**.
- **STONES** in a temple.

The most powerful force of all is the **GOSPEL** of Jesus Christ.

We should deepen our relationships with other Christians to the point of:

- Personal **ACCOUNTABILITY**.
- Whole-life **HOSPITALITY**. (Ephesians 4:28)
- Corporate **SPIRITUALITY**. (Eph. 3:17-19, 1 Cor. 5:11)

HOW WE **BECOME** WHAT WE **ARE**

(Ephesians 4:3)

- See Jesus as the **CORNERSTONE**.
(Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22-23, 1 Peter 2:4-5)

CORE

8 Essentials for the Church

Community

Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 2:11-22

1/19/2020

GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Based on [Ephesians 2:11-22](#), **what do these verses say that Christians WERE, before they trusted Christ? Why do you think it's important we know and remember that?**

3. Verses 19-22 describes some of the things that Christians ARE, after they trust Christ:

- Fellow citizens
- Members of God's household
- Stones in a temple

Choose one of these metaphors, and explain why you think it's important, means or our understanding of what Christian community is.

GETTING PERSONAL

4. A large part of your experience in Christian community has to do with your **expectations** of Christian community.

Do you have expectations of what Christian community should be, that you think are probably wrong?

What do you think are some of the *right*, biblical expectations Christians should have of Christian community?

BRINGING IT HOME

5. **Christian community is a *Means of Grace*.** A "means of grace" is a theological word which simply means something that Bible teaches that God clearly uses as a way to pour out his grace onto his people, and something in which the Holy Spirit is actively transforming us. There are lots of things like this, but a few prime examples are: *corporate worship, communion, preaching, reading the Bible, prayer, baptism, and more.*

Community as a *means of grace* means that **community** is not an end in itself. It's a way for us to know Jesus more, to become more like Jesus, and to be sent into the lives of others so they might know Jesus.

How do you see God using Christian community to:

- **Make you more like Jesus?**
- **Send you into the lives of others to draw them to Christ?**

6. In light of the passage, or what you've discussed, what is one way you'd like to take action based on this week's sermon?

Or...

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

PRAY TOGETHER