

An Acts
Series

COMMUNITY

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul,

and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple
together and breaking bread in their homes,
they received their food with glad and
generous hearts,

praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Community is forged not found

Individualism/Self-centered/Narcissitic

Loneliness

We spend most of our lives looking for the
type of community we long for
instead of forging the kind of community
God's kingdom is built on.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:22-23

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1 John 3:23-24

“Community is a group of people who share
an identity-forming narrative”

-Toby Lowe

Together wasn't something they did,
its who they were.

Devotion starts with a need

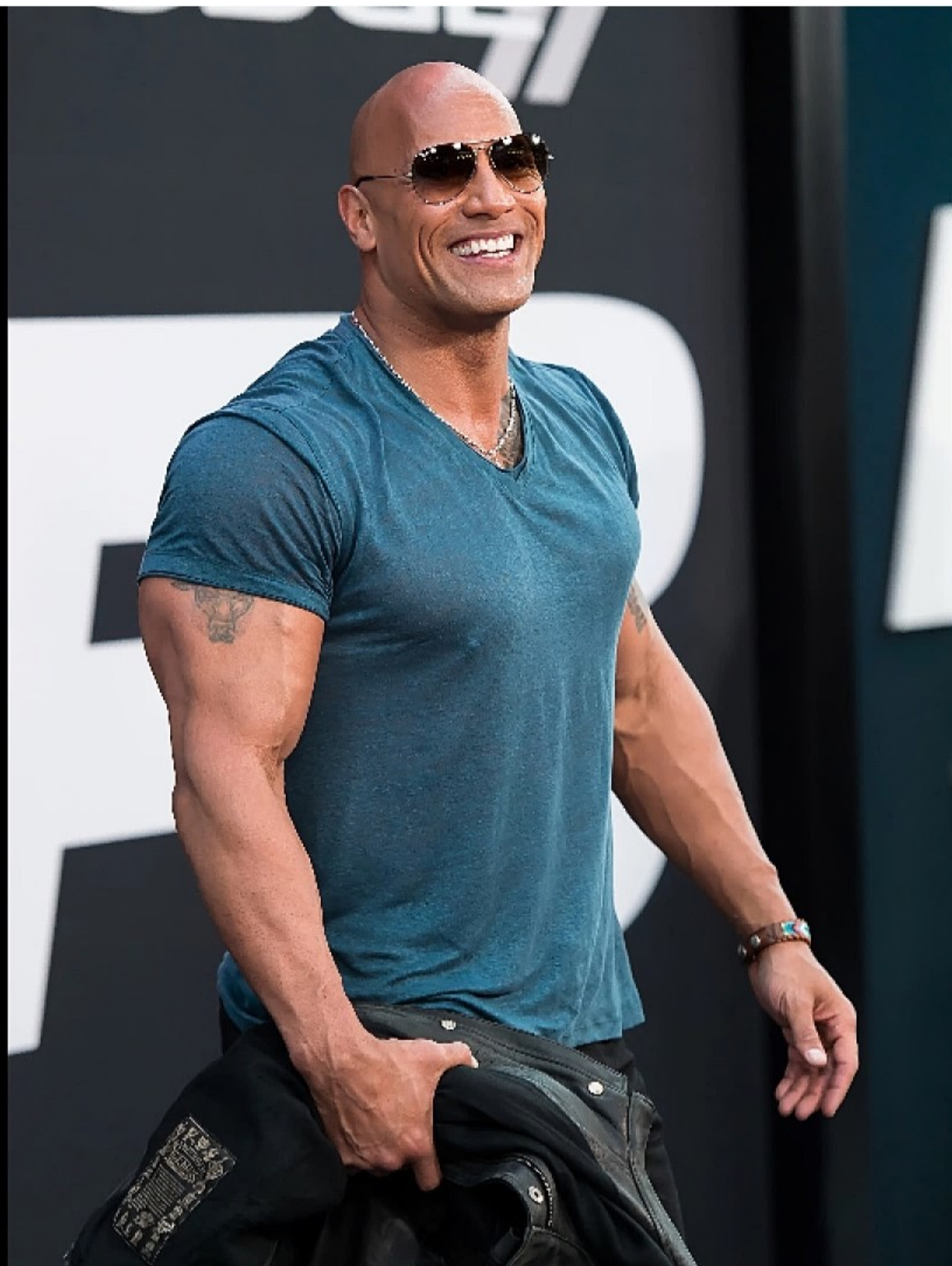
For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together,

grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him
you also are being built together into a
dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesias 2:18-22







“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands,

forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,
but who will by no means clear the guilty,
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the
children and the children's children, to the
third and the fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:6-7

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have
hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never
ceases;

his mercies never come to an end; they are
new every morning; great is your
faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:21-23

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you
and guard you against the evil one

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Everyone has devotion, is what you're devoted to greater than Him?

What time spent in Christian community is spent on information/opinion based over actual practicing the way of Jesus?

Every community we live in is born and bred
by promises made and promise kept.

“The paradox of promising is that we freely bind ourselves to keep the promises we make. We limit our freedom so that we can be free to be there with someone in his future's unpredictable storms.

"The person who makes a vow," said Chesterton, "makes an appointment with himself at some distant time or place." And he gives up freedom in order to keep it.

When you make a promise, you tie yourself to other persons by the unseen fibers of loyalty. You agree to stick with people you are stuck with.

When everything else tells them they can count on nothing, they count on you. When they do not have the faintest notion of what in the world is going on around them, they will know that you are going to be there with them.

You have created a small sanctuary of trust within the jungle of unpredictability: you have made a promise that you intend to keep.”

- Lewis Smedes, Controlling the Unpredictable—The Power of Promising

God said to Moses,
“I am who I am.”

Exodus 3:14

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:5-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Come, Devote, Practice
Community