

## THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.*

Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)

### ❖ What Does Community Mean?

1. The Biblical word for community is KOINONIA, which means a COMMON BOND.  
*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*  
1 John 1:3 (NIV)
2. From this word we also get the word COMMUNION, regarding the Lord's Supper.  
*Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.*  
1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NAS)
3. Community relates to HELPING EACH OTHER when in need.  
*For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup>They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.*  
Romans 15:26-27 (NIV)

### ❖ So Why is Community So Important?

*"Therefore (as you are going) make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>And 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

1. To "love God with all your heart" is WORSHIP.
2. To "love your neighbor as yourself" is MINISTRY.
3. To "go and make disciples" is EVANGELISM.

4. To “teach them all things” is DISCIPLESHIP.

5. To “baptize them” is to incorporate them into the FELLOWSHIP.

❖ Why and How we Practice Community:

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

1. We WORSHIP better together.

*Let us not avoid worshipping together as some do but let us spur each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:25 (MSG)

2. We SERVE better together.

*If there is any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? <sup>2</sup>Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.*

Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT)

3. We REACH OUT better together.

*But whatever happens to me, you must live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ, as citizens of heaven. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the Good News.*

Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

4. We GROW better together.

*Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize what I am saying. When you meet, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in an unknown language, while another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord.*

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NLT)

5. We FELLOWSHIP better together.

*“And the Church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common.”*

Acts 2:42, 44 (NIV)

*Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. <sup>21</sup>May He be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages, Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)