



Church DNA: A Caring Community

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The DNA of the Church is that we are a committed community, a filled community, and a caring community.

“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.”
Acts 2:42-47 (MSG)

- 1. From these verses in Acts, what was the evidence that this first church was a caring community?**
- 2. Does today's church carry out this same model of caring?**

Questions to ask ourselves about caring for others with our material goods.
Read Matthew 6:19-20 and Luke 12:15 (Message).

- Are our material goods available for God's use?

- 3. What should your attitude be toward your material goods?**

4. How does your attitude toward your material goods affect your relationship with God?

5. How does your attitude toward your material goods affect your relationship with your community of faith?

- What is our responsibility to those of our community that are in need? Read 1 Timothy 5:8 and Acts 4:34 (Message).

6. The selling of land and the giving of funds was voluntary. Why do you think it is important that giving be voluntary?

7. People gave as the need arose. Is today's church modeling caring through giving to meet needs? Explain.

- Do our priorities concerning caring and giving match God's priorities? Read Matthew 6:33 and 2 Corinthians 9:8-11 (Message).

8. Are you willing to go without a want so that others can have what they need?

The DNA of the church contains a strand of caring. Wherever the church exists in its true form, this strand is apparent.

8. Is this strand of caring evident in today's church?

9. How can you be part of your church's strand of caring?