

The Heartwood: Missional Community

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We value Missional Community...

... because we believe in lovingly investing in the lives of those within our local fellowship of believers as well as those outside of our fellowship but within the local reach of our church's ministries.

Romans 12: 1-21

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1) An effective Missional Community is ...

Established on Personal Sacrifice (Rom 12: 1-2)

- Sacrifice is necessary for proper worship (vs 1)
- Sacrifice brings God's will into focus (vs 2)

2) An effective Missional Community is ...

Engaged with One Another (Rom 12: 3-8)

- Displaying Humility (vs 3)
- Expecting Accountability (vs 4)

3) An effective Missional Community is ...

Extending Compassion to Others (Rom 12: 9-21)

- To build relationships (vss 9-10, 14, 16, 18)
- To meet needs (11-13, 15, 17, 19, 21)

Meeting Different Types of Needs

- Spiritual needs (vss 11-12)
- Physical Needs (vss 13, 20)
- Emotional Needs (vss 15, 17, 19)

Spiritual Needs = Bring Others to Jesus

Physical Needs = Bring Jesus to Others

Emotional Needs = Be Jesus for Others

4) An effective Missional Community is ...

Expanding Its Impact

- Deeper Individually

- Wider Collectively

Our Response Involves Two Choices:

Choice 1: Embrace the reality that we are bonded to one another as a Missional Community and ...

... get active in the Mission!

Choice 2: Believe a false narrative