

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Covenant Community - How do we as the church look different than the world? Read John 13:34-35; Ephesians 2:19, 22; Acts 2:42-46; Acts 4:32-5:5?

A Covenant Community is a:

Growing Community - Community committed to looking more like Jesus each and every day. How are you pursuing growth in your relationship with Jesus in the midst of community

Guarding Community - Community who care for one another, help guard each other from discouragement, temptation, losing their hope or faith. Whose back do you have? Who has your back? How are you helping someone have an unshakeable faith? Experience joy in the midst of any circumstances? Walk in peace? Remember the goodness and faithfulness of God?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Giving Community - Community that says, "What is mine is yours." We recognize all we have is from God and we choose to treat our money and possessions as belonging first to God. Are you giving to the community where you gather? Are you investing in the community where you seek fellowship and feeding? Are you trusting God enough to say yes to His invitation to give?



ACTION STEPS

Pray to ask God what He is asking you to give to Grace Chapel
Register for Church in Community on November 6th
Sign up for an hour of prayer November 7-12.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS



Cultivating Covenant Community



Christian community moves
us from a broken Ego System
to a brilliant Eco System!

Ökologie
(from Greek oikos)
house, dwelling place,
habitation

EPHESIANS 2:19 +
Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and
strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and
also members of his household.

EPHESIANS 2:22 +
And in him you too are being built together to
become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

4 Unhealthy Expressions of Community

- 1 Concealing Community
"I feel unknown"
- 2 Condemning Community
"I feel shamed"
- 3 Condoning Community
"I feel permission"
- 4 Consumer Community
"I feel obligated"

Covenant Community:
A group of people who seek to live out their faith together in devotion to the ways of Jesus.

ACTS 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



ACTS 2:44-46

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 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,



Devoted:
Speaks to the intensity
of your community.



Fellowship (koinónia):
Community around shared
values and beliefs.

Covenant Communities are:
1 Growing Communities
2 Guarding Communities
3 Giving Communities

ACTS 4:32



All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

ACTS 4:34-35



that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

ACTS 5:1-2

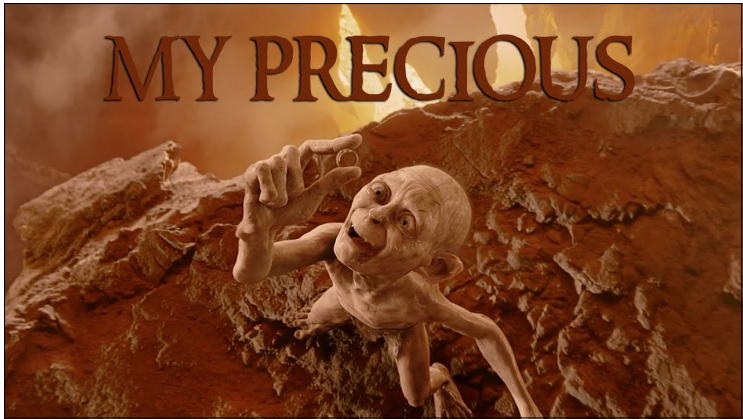


Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

ACTS 5:3



Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"



ACTS 5:5

When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died.
And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

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“There is no neutral ground in the universe: Every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan.”

C.S. Lewis

Satan hustles your heart
through hustling your treasure.

MATTHEW 6:19-21 +

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



MATTHEW 6:24 +

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**Money (mammon):
Wealth, riches, & treasures.**

Three Lies of the Enemy:

- 1 Don't trust God
- 2 God is the oppressor
- 3 You are entitled



MARK 12:17 KJ21 +

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
And they marveled at Him.

We render more
out of obligation
than we render
out of opportunity.

Render:
We mostly see it as an
obligation more than an
invitation.



1 CORINTHIANS 7:3 NKJV

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and
likewise also the wife to her husband.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:2-5

In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

**CULTIVATING
COMMUNITY
WITH OTHERS** +
