

WHY COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT

Sunday, 13 September 2020 (By Marius Gradwell)



- The Community we are talking about is a Gospel and Christ-centred, Kingdom (Biblical) Community.
- Some see community as optional.
- They do not see community as a necessary part of their life as a believer.
- It is a take it or leave it sort of thing.
- They go to church when they want, and they associate with the body of Christ on their terms.
- I, however, believe being part of a biblical community is an important and necessary part of our life as a Christ follower. It is something all of us should strive to be part of and cultivate.

4 Reasons a Biblical Community is Important

1. First, being a part of a biblical community is important because *it is vital for growth.*

Ephesians 4:16 TPT *For his "body" has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.*

- *"His body has been formed in his image"* – Triune God – A community in perfect fellowship.
- *"closely joined together and constantly connected as one"*. – joined and connected.
- *"every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all"* – do not deprive yourself and others by being disconnected and isolated.
- *"as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love."*
- We need other believers to teach us, encourage us, pray for and with us.
- We need other believers to hold us accountable and provide us with godly counsel.
- Other's cannot grow without us.

2. Second, being a part of a biblical community is important because *it is vital for our well-being.*

1 Corinthians 12:25-27 MSG *The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, (26) the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. (27) You are Christ's body—that is who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.*

- Being a part of community means that when we fall on hard times, we have somewhere to turn.
- No one can survive and be well without family and community.
- Illustration: Babies waiting for adoption.

3. Third, being a part of a biblical community is important because *it is vital for our mission.*

Luke 10:1-2 TPT *After this, the Lord Jesus formed thirty-five teams among the other disciples. Each team was two disciples, seventy in all, and he commissioned them to go ahead of him into every town he was about to visit. (2) He released them with these instructions: "The harvest is huge and ripe. But there are not enough harvesters to bring it all in. As you go, plead with the Owner of the Harvest to drive out into his harvest fields many more workers.*

Matthew 28:18-20 TPT *Then Jesus came close to them and said, "All the authority of the universe has been given to me. (19) Now go in my authority and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (20) And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age."*

- We are called to evangelise – in teams. Ill. Lone Angler vs Team with a Net.
- We are called to make disciples. It is not a church programme – it is lifestyle based on a culture with its values.
- To be an effective witness, we need community.
- To effectively teach others, we need community.

4. Lastly, being a part of a biblical community is important because *community is a Grace*.

- It is a gift God has given us.
- Sadly, many in the church do not recognise it as a gift of God.
- I think that is because we are free to worship as we please, where we please, and with whom we please. We have taken for granted what we have.
- Commenting on this Bonhoeffer says, (*Life Together*)

"It is true, of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day. It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us... Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren."

Conclusion

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1. It is vital for growth.
 2. It is vital for our well-being.
 3. It is vital for our mission.
 4. Community is a Grace.
- Stay Connected – Care for one another.
 - Stay Rooted – Grow in Christ
 - Stay on Mission – Share Christ
 - Christian community is important, and it is something we should desire.
 - That is to gather with other believers, to fellowship with them, to study God's Word together, to pray together, to break bread and eat together, to do life together with them, to worship

with them. To share the Gospel and embrace baby believers, to baptise them, teach them all that you know and see them grow and see them repeat the same cycle.

- By nature, believers are a communal people. God has set it up that way, and we should honour God's design. We should be a part of a community of believers.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you believe Christian community is important?
2. Would you add another point to my four above?