

Members of One Another

Act 2:41-47 ESV So **those who RECEIVED his word** were baptized, and **THERE WERE ADDED** that day about three thousand souls. 42 And they devoted themselves to the ***apostles' teaching*** and the ***fellowship***, to the ***breaking of bread*** and the ***prayers***. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed ***were together*** and ***had all things in common***. 45 And they were ***selling their possessions and belongings*** and ***distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need***. 46 And day by day, attending the temple ***together*** and ***breaking bread in their homes***, they received their food with ***glad and generous hearts***, 47 praising God and having ***favor with all the people***. And **THE LORD ADDED to their number day by day** those who were being saved.

- They were added to the community" (i.e. describe?) It was a by-product of their relationship to Jesus
- American culture presses us toward individualism & Covid has pressed us even further toward isolation
- Yet we see in scripture that Jesus presses us toward an interconnected community

I am identified as a disciple of Jesus by my love for others

Joh 13:34-35 ESV A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this ***all people will know that you are my disciples***, if you have love for one another."

When God comforts me, it is so I may be able to comfort others (interconnected)

2Co 1:3-4 ESV Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 ***who comforts us*** in all our affliction, ***so that we may be able to comfort*** those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Getting the word of God in my life is so that I can disciple others (community)

Col 3:16 ESV Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, ***teaching and admonishing one another*** in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

True religion is defined at least partially on my treatment of orphans and widows

Jas 1:27 ESV ***Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction***, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

The second greatest commandment cannot be obeyed outside of community

Mat 22:37-40 ESV And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself**. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

The power of God's grace enabled them to embrace community by giving

2Co 8:1-5 ESV We want you to know, brothers, about ***the grace of God*** that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of ***affliction***, their abundance of ***joy*** and their ***extreme poverty*** have ***overflowed in a wealth of generosity*** on their part. (*they took up an offering for the saints in Jerusalem*)

Community creates an environment to press us toward Christ-likeness

Mar 9:33-35 ESV And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "**What were you discussing on the way?**" (34) But they kept silent, for on the way **they had argued with one another about who was the greatest**. (35) And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "**If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.**"