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Discipline of Community

We Need Each Other

It is not God's intention for us to follow Him alone. We've been saved into a family. Each member of this family is uniquely designed to fit within the whole and contribute to it. We need each other. We need each other in order to be encouraged, built up, and corrected when in error. We need each other in order to rightly discern truth and to understand God's guidance in our lives.

Read

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.

Acts 2:42-47

Aloneness can lead to loneliness. God's preventative for loneliness is intimacy – meaningful, open, sharing relationships with one another. In Christ we have the capacity for the fulfilling sense of belonging which comes from intimate fellowship with God and with other believers.

-Neil T. Anderson

What a beautiful picture of the church. This passage depicts a group of people who shared not only in their faith, but also their lives with each other. Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to neglect meeting together. Community with other believers is a command and a discipline! In our individualist western culture we need to be reminded over and over that we can't do this alone.

Unity with each other

Fellowship means among other things that we are ready to receive of Christ from others. Other believers minister Christ to me, and I am ready to receive.

- Watchman Nee

God takes people from all over, with different backgrounds and tells them to be family. It really is miraculous when church looks like the book of Acts. Sometimes that takes time. That's why community is a discipline. We press into one another and choose each other trust God to unite our hearts together. This discipline provides the environment for God to move.

Jesus prays in John 17 that all who believe would be one and the result of that unity would be that the world would know Jesus. Think about that. Somehow in God's design our unity will result in others knowing Jesus. May there be convection on the church to fight for unity and not allow disagreement to divide us.

Putting it in action

Community doesn't require a meeting or an event. In fact, it's usually best when it happens through the normal rhythms of life. However, it is necessary to have a few structures to hold this discipline to support it throughout the church body.

At Antioch we have 3 structures that hold this discipline:

Sunday Mornings - Followers of Jesus have been meeting on Sunday mornings for hundreds of years. It's a tradition that began when believers wanted to meet and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on the day of the week He rose from the dead. We use this time to worship God, hear a teaching from scripture, and minister to one another. It's a time for disciples of Jesus to encounter God, be equipped, encouraged, and empowered to follow Him.

Life Groups - Life Groups meet in homes throughout the city during the week. It's a place where we experience authentic community and learn to grow as disciples of Jesus. In Life Group, we encounter God, invest in each other's lives and dream together about ways to love God in Fort Collins and to the ends of the earth.

Discipleship - Discipleship is where the "rubber meets the road." We share our lives with others and invite them to encourage, correct, challenge, and lead us. We help each other follow Jesus. This only works if people really know us and we know them.

Discussion Questions

What has been your experience in the church? The good, the bad, and the ugly.

There are some things that keep us from DOING life together: busyness, past hurt, uncertainty. What obstacles keep you from being a part of community?

How are you going to practice the Discipline of Community this week?

Go Deeper - Resources to develop a discipline of Community

Watch

[What is the Church and what is Discipleship?](#)

Books

[Until Unity - Francis Chan](#)

[Boundaries - Henry Cloud](#)

[The Power of Forgiveness - Reinhard Hirtler](#)

[Keep Your Love On - Danny Silk](#)