

June 14, Sermon Notes and Journal Page
Family, Community and the Church, Pt.2
1 - Community Understood

- Defined ~ Community: *a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.*
- Defined ~ Fellowship: *is sense of connection to those in which you share common attitudes, interests, and goals.*

A - Community in the context of our faith is what we call an abstract term:

- Meaning that you can't actually go out and get a large glass of community. It's not something you can hold in your hand, it's immaterial. Something that is abstract can only be verified through action, it has to be observed.
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2 - Community Through The Word

White Board: Individual, Family, Community

B - Lets play a little game ... So, I am going to describe a section of Gods word and you are going to tell me if it connects primarily to an individual, a family, a community of believers, or more than one.

Old Testament (39 Books in all)

New Testament (27 Books in all)

- *What about the gifts of the Spirit? Surely those are for the individual, right...*
 - **1 Corinthians 12:7** *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**.* ^(NABS)
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3 - Blessing and Judgment of Community

A - All throughout scripture Gods people are encourage to come together, work together, and stay together.

Check out these references

- **Hebrews 10:24** *Do not neglect to meet together*
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9** *Two are better than one*
- **Psalms 133**: *How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity*
- **Colossians 3:13** *...if one has a complaint against another, forgive each other*
- **Acts 2:44** *and all who believed were together and had all things in common.*
- **1 John 1:7** *but if we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have fellowship with one another; and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin.*
- **Ephesians 4:2-6** *With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.*
- **Romans 12:5** *So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

Does it seem like it pleases God when His people choose to serve Him in the context of community? I would have to say yes.

But lets look at one last piece to this puzzle

B - Judgment and Blessing

- In Revelation chapters 2&3 we have seven letters written to seven churches.

- In those seven letters you will see God praising some, and correcting others.

Journal

1 - When you look around at the people in our church can you say with confidence that you are in community with them in attitude, interests, and goals? Remember that this does not mean that you are all the best of friends. It simply means that your actions and theirs are in sync with one another, in the context of your faith and service to the cause of the Gospel. Are you connected through understanding or action. Understanding is good as a beginning, but it should lead to action. Take a few moments and describe what others see in your life that promotes community. Don't be afraid to be harsh, and don't be afraid to praise your own efforts. _____

2 - Now, share your comments from above with someone you trust to be honest with you. Are they in agreement with your assessment? Where does their view differ from yours? And, what adjustments do you need to make in order to bring the two together in agreement? _____
