

Grown-ups

(Community) Part 1

1.18.26

Acts 2:42 ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number^u those who were being saved.

I. What is community?

“Christian community is simply sharing a common life in Christ.” JM

“Community occurs when a follower of Jesus intentionally, honestly and consistently connects to other followers of Jesus so they can become better followers of Jesus.” MM

II. What community is not.

- a place on the map. But rather a group of people.

-Online relationships

-Just attending church

-Why is going to church not enough?

Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.**Gal. 6:2**).

Therefore encourage^[a] one another with these words.**I Thess 4:18**)

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,^[a] singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Luke 17:3 Be on your guard. If your brother sins,^[a] rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

III. Who is your Jesus community?

What fellow believers are you consistently helping or being helped by?

IV. Why do we need community?

1. Because we were made for relationships

Genesis 2: Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."

2. Because life is hard.

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

"Satan watcheth for those vessels that sail without a convoy."

3. Because scripture is clear on why we need community. (C.I.A)

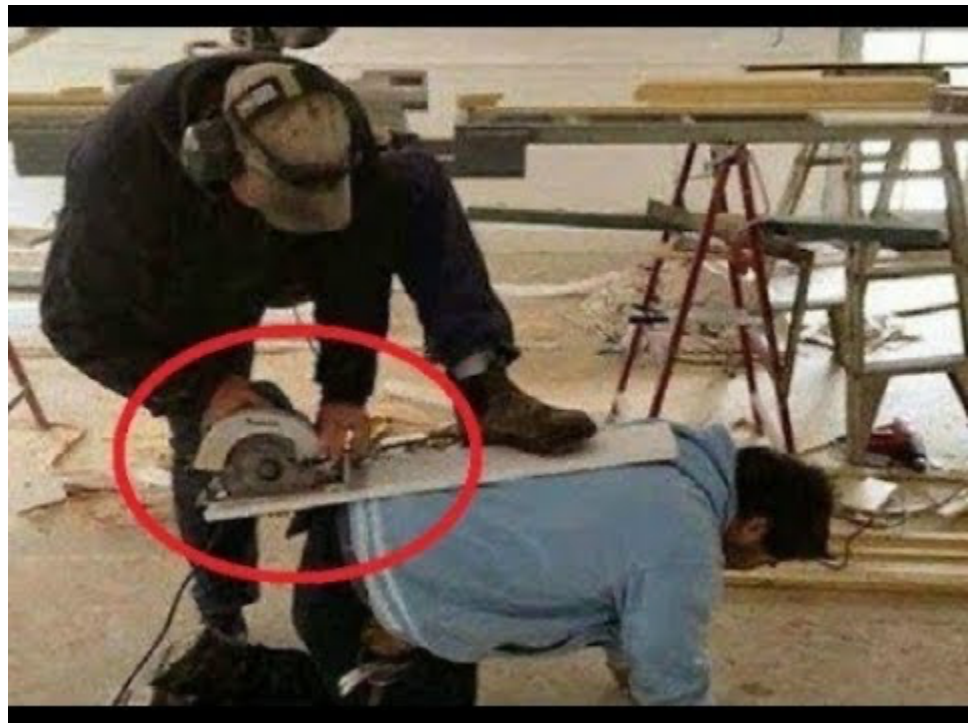
****We need life cheerleaders**

Hebrews 10: And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

****We need life instruction/direction**

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,^[a] singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

****We need accountability**



Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit,^[a] watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted. ² Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

4. Because we can never be our best for Christ until we embrace community

1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body is not one part but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body.

Close:

Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation.

Charles Spurgeon