

THE DISCIPLINE OF COMMUNITY: ONE ANOTHERING ONE ANOTHER

(Acts 2:42-47; 1 John 4:7-12)

Series: The Disciplines of a Godly Life (Part 11)

...The church by God's design is a family. Since this is so, we are in relationship with each other, connected at the deepest level of life. Just as your body has many parts and yet is a unit, so the local church is composed of many people connected for the purpose of glorifying God by making disciples...within a body.

...This Fall, we as a church are being intentional about providing a place for you to get closer to others in our church by meeting weekly in a home with others for the purpose of "Doing life together." Life groups. This is a safe place for you to grow and be loved, where "Everyone knows your name."

THREE INSIGHTS ABOUT THE DISCIPLINE OF COMMUNITY URGING US TO INTENTIONALLY "ONE ANOTHER EACH OTHER."

...It is within genuine-loving relationships that discipleship flourishes best.

I. The Basis Of Community: Is Found In The Trinity. (Genesis 1-2)

...Our God has always existed in the eternal relationships of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A. God tells us in His Word that He is triune God, three co-equal, co-eternal, and co-substantial persons. God is one in essence, not tri-theism, yet, three distinct personalities. Mystery!!!

1. Each attribute belongs to each member of the Trinity. (Power, wisdom, etc.)

...*"Let US make man in our image and in our likeness."* (Genesis 1:26-27)

2. The 3 Persons of the Godhead have always enjoyed the sweetness of community from eternity past. Unbroken love and fellowship within the Godhead...until Jesus...

B. God made mankind in His likeness, and this relational element was not lost in the Fall, but a building block in the DNA of our created image.

1. God saw Adam all by himself and said, "Not good for man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18)

2. God's solution was to provide another, one like him, but not quite the same to help him...

II. The Command For Community: Is Found In The Many "One Another" Passages.

...A study of the 59 "one another" passages in the New Testament unfold God's design for church life.

...These passages actually exhort (Command) us as believers in the body (church) to do something for...

...Of the 59 passages, there are three main categories of action:

A. 1/3 of the "One another" passages command the church to get along. UNITY.

1. "Don't grumble among one another." (John 6:43)

2. "Don't bite, devour, and consume one another." (Galatians 5:15)

3. "Bear with one another." (Colossians 3:13)

4. "Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another." (Ephesians 4:32)

5. "Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:15)

B. 1/3 of the "One another" passages command us to LOVE each other. LOVE.

1. "Love one another." (John 13:34, 15:12, 17; Romans 13:8; 1 John 3:11, 4:7, 11)

2. "Through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

3. "Be devoted to one another in love." (Romans 12:10)

C. 15% of the "One another" passages command HUMILITY. HUMILITY.

1. "Be subject to one another." (Ephesians 5:21)

2. "Clothe yourself with humility toward one another." (1 Peter 5:5)

- D. The remaining "One another" passages speak to the many other areas of life. (A few examples)
 1. "Bear one another's burdens." (Galatians 6:2)
 2. "Encourage and build up one another." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

III. The Application of Community: An Intentional Program For Grace Church.

...It is possible to unintentionally "one another one another," but in "Life Group" at Grace it is intentional.

- A. The "Grace" of Grace Community Church describes God's goodness in giving us everything!!!
- B. The word "Church" describes what we are, a local body of Christ called to make disciples.
- C. The word "Community" describes the sweetness of relationships formed within our church as we serve the Lord walking through the ups and downs of life. We need each other.
...Join one of our "Life Groups" and gather weekly with brothers and sisters to grow in grace and fulfill God's command to intentionally be about "One anothering one another."

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?

1. God commands us as a church to be intentional in our love and care of one another. We do well to take the "one another" passages to heart and use them as a template for our relationships with each other. To properly answer wicked Cain's rebellious question to God...Yes, we are our "Brother's keeper."
2. Remember, we usually do not do very well in isolation...we have a sin nature that tends to pull us downward. We need each other to help us continue to grow in grace as we encourage each other, as we bear one another's burden, as we love one another with Christ's love that has been "shed abroad in our hearts."
3. Please consider joining one of our "Life Groups." The groups will meet weekly, for community. There will be a few discussion questions focusing on the previous Sunday sermon along with the sharing of our lives. We will have the Life Group sign up take place beginning next Sunday. The groups will begin to meet in October and with breaks, meet until the school year is over and then break for the summer.
...This year, the Life Groups will replace our Men's and Ladies Studies.
4. Perhaps you have never been born again. Today come to Jesus.