



Valuing Biblical Community

ACTS 2:44-47

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:44

I. Biblical community is a group of believers who _____ together.

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 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 2:44-47

Connect to biblical community by _____ time to be with other believers.

II. Biblical community is hard because relationships are _____ .

Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox. Proverbs 14:4

Connect to biblical community by forgiving past _____ .

III. Biblical community is God's method of _____ for each of us.

But God has so composed the body ... that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 1 Corinthians 12:24b-26

Connect to biblical community by taking a relational _____ .

"Biblical fellowship has the power to revolutionize lives. Masks come off, conversations get deep, hearts get vulnerable, lives are shared, accountability is invited, and tenderness flows." -Bill Hybels

1. FOR REFLECTION ALONE: *PREPARE*

A. How would you express the Big Idea of the sermon in your own words? Were any of the thoughts new to you?



SMALL GROUP LESSON

B. Which of the three applications about connecting to biblical community did you relate to as most difficult (prioritizing and planning time to be with other believers, forgiving past messes, taking a relational risk)? What false thinking is contributing to that difficulty?

What needs to change in your thinking or actions so that you value biblical community as much as God does?

C. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. If you belong to Christ, you are part of His body of believers. How does being a “Lone Ranger Christian” go against the biblical view of community? In what areas of your life are you allowing yourself to be isolated or to instead take part in a poor substitute for biblical community?

Now read Proverbs 14:4. What are some of the “messy” aspects of relationships for you right now? By keeping your “manger” clean and free of messes, what are you missing that God would have you be part of?

D. If you’re in a small group, what has the Lord been teaching you about learning to love others His way? If you’re not part of a group, what prioritizing or planning do you need to do so you can be part of one?

E. Talk to the Lord about your level of involvement in biblical community. Ask Him to provide what you need to be more engaged in learning to love others and allowing them access to your life.

2. AT SMALL GROUP: *SHARE*

A. How would you define “doing life together”? What does it look like in practical ways?

B. Have someone read aloud Acts 2:44-47 and Proverbs 14:4. How does the seemingly perfect picture of community portrayed in Acts 2 come into conflict with the reality of relationships portrayed in Proverbs 14:4?

C. Before you heard this sermon, how important would you say that biblical community was to you? How has your view of it changed since then, and what have you decided to do about it?

D. Share how God has changed you through being part of your small group. How has it impacted your life? What do you want the others in your group to know so they can encourage you?

E. Close by praising God that He helps us to connect with one another because of our common bond in Jesus Christ. Pray for the unity of your own small group, and for the unity of the believers in our church.