

ONE FOR ALL...



Acts 2: 42 -47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. *What is Community?*

- Compound word: “com” means *“with”* / “unity” means what it says... “
- being unified or having a common union.
- Jesus shares this with us [*Matthew 18:20 (NIV)*]

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

1. *What is Community?*

- Modeled on the Trinity [*John 17: 20 – 23(NIV)*]

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- God wants believers to dwell in union and in community having the same mind that is in Jesus Christ [*Philippians 2:1-11(MSG)*]

1. *What is Community?*

▪ *In the Bible, when Jesus talks about the relationship between a Christian and another Christian, he implies that the relationship is more deeply rooted, stronger, and more significant than a relationship between blood relatives.*

= *Blood thicker than water? Christ's blood is thicker than our blood*

Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

2. Purpose of Community?

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

2. Purpose of Community?



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i. Safety in Numbers (“...not neglecting to meet together...”)

- Can't go it alone = protection
- Loner = burn out / cynicism / isolation / ineffectiveness / spiritual death!
- Community = team / encouragement / support / lessens the load
- CAN BE MESSY!!!!



2. Purpose of Community?



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ii. Proactive (“...let us consider how to stir up one another...”)

- “Stir” = provoke / excite / stimulate / incite

- Take careful note of each other's spiritual welfare.

- Verb implies *attentive, continuous care*.

2. Purpose of Community?



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iii. Focus on the Goal (“...and all the more as you see *the Day drawing near.*”)

- Day=Jesus’ return
- What are we doing to prepare ourselves and each other for that Day?
- What are doing to prepare the world for that Day?
- Philippians 3;20-21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

3. Characteristics of Community?

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3. Characteristics of Community?

i. Comfortable

- Comfort doesn't = complacency
- Comfort from;
 - feeling valued, respected, trusted, loved, encouraged, supported...
 - knowing there are no boundaries; i.e. age, culture, education, occupation...

- **Romans 12:10 (NIV)**

Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

- **Galatians 6:10 (NIV)**

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

3. Characteristics of Community?



3. Characteristics of Community?

ii. Functional

- Everyone knows their part and are acting in it

- *Rom. 12:4-5:*

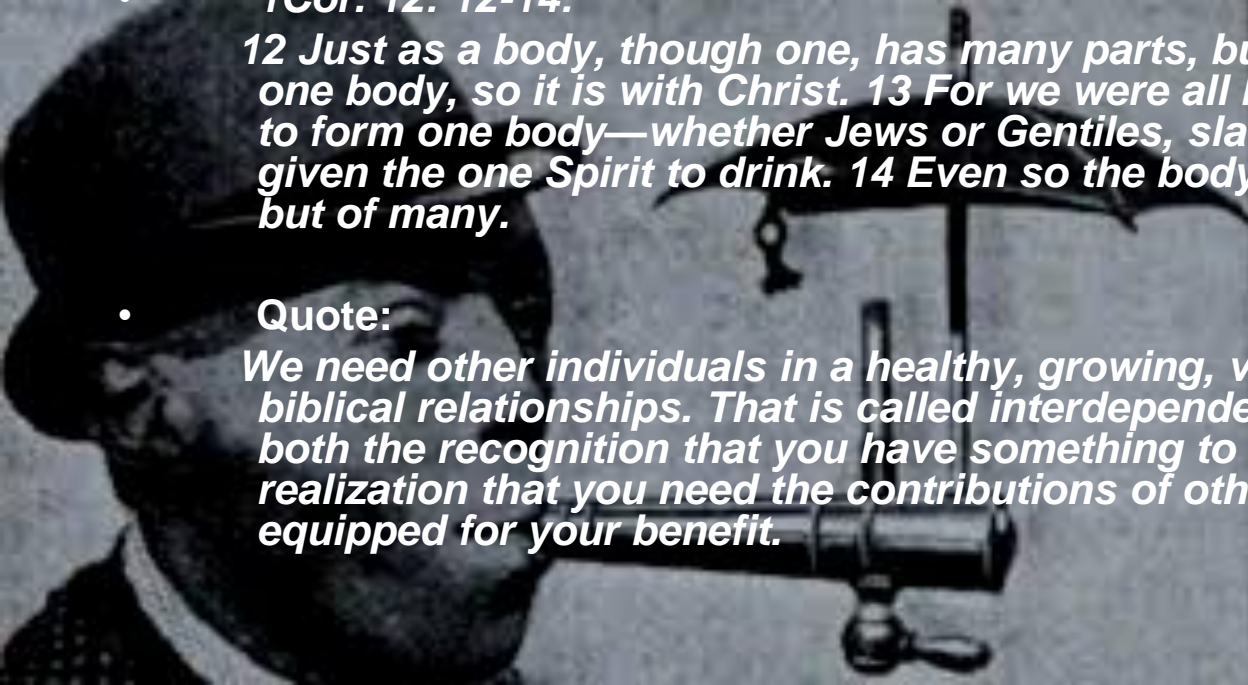
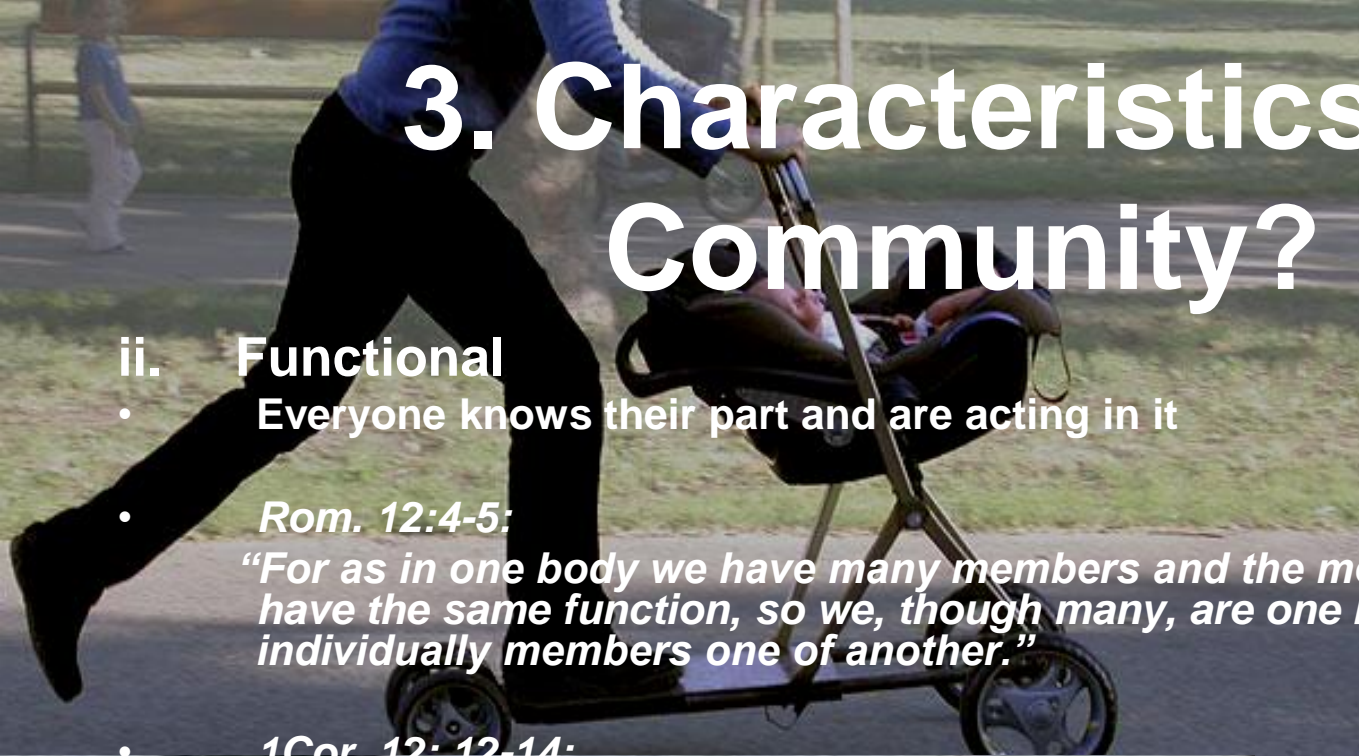
“For as in one body we have many members and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

- *1Cor. 12: 12-14:*

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

- **Quote:**

We need other individuals in a healthy, growing, vibrant community of strong biblical relationships. That is called interdependence. Interdependence is both the recognition that you have something to contribute, and the realization that you need the contributions of others who have been equipped for your benefit.



3. Characteristics of Community?



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iii. Missional

- This is our heritage: to send and be sent

- *Ephesians 4(NIV)*

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.