

Biblical Overview of Community

Creation:

- “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” – Genesis 2:18

Sin: Community Broken

God’s Redemption Plan through Community:

- Call of Abraham
- Nation of Israel
- Prophets pointing to the future Kingdom of God

Jesus:

- Calls a Community of Followers
- We are brought into Trinitarian “Community”
 - “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” - John 17:24
 - “but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.” - John 14:31
 - “I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” – John 17:23
 - “⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” – John 15:9
- Love of God spills over to fellow brother and sisters in Christ
 - *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*” - John 15:12
 - “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” – John 17:26
- Sins Hostility is Healed: “remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” – Ephesians 2:11-21
- Mission of the Christian Community
 - “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20
 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

- *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ 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 2:42-47*
- Church is an “embassy” of the Kingdom of God

Eternal Community: Every tribe tongue and nation

- *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” – Revelation 7:9-10*
- Final Picture in the Bible of Eternity is one of Glorious Community

Purpose of Community:

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” – Colossians 3:12-16

1. Christian Community Reflects Your Savior

- *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:35*

2. Christian Community Builds Up Fellow Brother and Sisters by pointing them to Christ

- *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up” - 1 Thessalonians 5:11*
- *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ 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.” - Hebrews 10:19-25*
- *“God does not will that I should fashion the other person according to the image that seems good to me, that is, in my own image; rather in his very freedom from me God made this person in His image... To me the sight may seem strange, even ungodly. But God creates every man in the likeness of His Son, the Crucified. After all, even that image certainly looked strange and ungodly to me before I grasped it.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

3. Christian Community Cares for One Another

- *“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” - Romans 12:10*
- *“...that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.” - 1 Corinthians 12:25*

- “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” - Galatians 5:13
- “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:3-4
- “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” - Galatians 6:2
- “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” – 1 Peter 4:8-9

4. Christian Community Kills Sin

- “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” – James 5:16
- “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” - 1 John 1:7
- “Exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” - Hebrews 3:13
- “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.” - Galatians 6:1
- “Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to their sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin. It is a ministry of mercy, an ultimate offer of genuine fellowship, when we allow nothing but God’s Word to stand between us... Then it is not we who are judging; God alone judges, and God’s judgment is helpful and healing.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

5. Christian Community is a Witness to a Lost World

- “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” – John 17:20-21
- “Why is (Christian) community compelling? Ironically, it is compelling because it’s not from here. God builds it, and it looks quite different from anything we could build.” – Erik Raymond

6. Christian Community Gives us a Taste of the Eternal Community:

- “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” - Revelation 7:9-10
- “Church, when done the way God intends, gives us just a taste of the perfect community we will experience in paradise.” – Tim Challies

Practical Community

Formal: Community Groups

Informal (Normal) Community: (Super Simple and Practical)

- Be intentional to meet and get to know the people around you
- Be intentional to gather and point one another to Jesus
- Invite others into your life

Warning: “Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

List of “One Another’s”

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. - John 13:14

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. - John 13:34, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 3:11

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10
Live in harmony with one another. - Romans 12:16*

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. - Romans 13:8

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way. - Romans 14:13

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. - Romans 15:7

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. - Romans 15:14

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. - 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 4:2

Serve one another in love. - Galatians 5:13

Bearing with one another in love. - Ephesians 4:2

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. - Ephesians 5:19

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. - Ephesians 5:21

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. - Colossians 3:13

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. - Colossians 3:16

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:25

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. - Hebrews 3:13

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. - Hebrews 10:24

Brothers, do not slander one another. - James 4:11

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. - 1 Peter 3:8

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. - 1 Peter 4:9

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. - 1 Peter 5:5

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. - 1 John 1:7

Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other. - Mark 9:50

so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. - 1 Corinthians 12:25

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. - Galatians 5:26

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. - Galatians 6:2

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. - 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Therefore encourage each other with these words. - 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. - 1 Thessalonians 5:13

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. - 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Keep on loving each other as brothers. - Hebrews 13:1

Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door.- James 5:9

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. - James 5:16

**List Tim Challies Blog*