

1 Acts 2: 42-47 (NLT) - 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Fellowship – koinonia – partnership, participation, social engagement, to communicate, sharing of thoughts and feelings.

what is shared in common as the basis of fellowship (partnership, community).

Becoming more like Jesus both requires and inspires close Christian community.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT) - Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

27 So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 (NLT) - I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun. 8 This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, "Who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure now?" It is all so meaningless and depressing.

9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11 Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

STUDY GUIDE

This last Sunday we spoke about how becoming more like Jesus both requires and inspire close Christian community. As you look at your life right now, what does your close Christian community look like? How many people know 100% of you? How about 80%.

Sometimes it can feel like a mark of weakness to need others, but Jesus didn't seem to feel that way. Take a moment to read Matthew 26: 36-38. As you read this part of the story of Jesus, what stands out to you about Jesus' view of community? What value does he seem to put on it? Why do you think he invited them with him?

Jesus, who is God incarnate in human form, sought out community, and all the more when he was feeling vulnerable or in need. He didn't view asking for help as weakness. He didn't view community as a crutch or a concession. He sought out community as the most natural thing in the world and it would seem that, if we are wanting to become more and more like him, that we should treat it the same. So, how about you? Take some time to take stock of the community you have and, if there is a gap, decide what you would like to do to close that gap.

Pray for each other.