

## **Real Community**

Community is a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings.

### **Hebrews 10:23-25**

- Spur one another on keeping in mind the hope we profess. The hope we found in Jesus Christ... to spur them on with that hope.
- Not giving up meeting as some are in the habit of doing. Could that be said about today's church?

### **Two things we will discuss this morning as we talk about Real Community:**

- 1) It is the church's responsibility to engage the individual in community
  - i. Who's responsibility??? → The Church
- 2) It is the individual's responsibility to engage in community within the church
  - i. Who's responsibility??? → The Individual

#### **1) Be the church and build community!**

The author of Hebrews says the church should be working to "stimulate one another to love and good deeds." The author is not saying to only love and do good deeds to others... the author is saying focus on helping others become loving people. Focus on stirring others up to do good deeds. The aim of our life isn't just to love and do good deeds, it is also to help others develop the same lifestyle. That is what it means to make a disciple. To mentor. To coach. To lead people to pursue Christ. This cannot be done in passing... this is done by walking with people and doing life with people.

**Matthew 28:19-20 – <sup>19</sup>*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,* <sup>20</sup>*teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

#### **2) Community is where you find support and healing.**

- Individual's responsibility to engage in community within the church - Not giving up meeting as some are in the habit of doing.
- Although, it is the church's responsibility to build community, it is the individual's responsibility to engage in community. It is the individual's responsibility to get involved in the life of the church and get plugged into a group.

**Acts 2:42-47 – <sup>42</sup>*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* <sup>43</sup>*And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.* <sup>44</sup>*And all who believed were together and had all things in common.* <sup>45</sup>*And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.* <sup>46</sup>*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,* <sup>47</sup>*praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.***

**Ecclesiastes 4:12 – “And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”**

#### **Challenge for you:**

- 1) If you are not connected to a group, get in a group.
- 2) If you are in a group, continue to build real community by pursuing others that are not in a group.
- 3) If God is putting it on your heart to lead a group, talk to the pastors and let us know how God is directing you.

#### **What is there for me?**

- Bible Study Groups (Sunday morning, Sunday evening, during the week):
  - Men's studies
  - Women's studies
  - Couples
  - Singles
  - College Age groups
  - Youth Age groups
  - Deep Diving
  - Memorization
- Service Groups (supports a local school, food pantry, we have groups that look for opportunities often to serve)
- Support groups (DivorceCare, Financial Peace, MOPS and MomsNext... we also considering a GriefShare group)
- Interest groups (Fitness, prayer, fishing, knitting group)

If you aren't plugged into a group, go on the app and fill out a connect card, or email us at [office@rtbc.org](mailto:office@rtbc.org).

You weren't created in the image of one that avoids Community... You were created in the image of the one that perfected Community. Get connected this week.