

Community - Week 3 Discussion Notes

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READ: Acts 2:41-47

The Book of Acts provides us with the history of the early church. Acts presents us with a picture of the traits and actions that typified the daily lives of believers and gives us the essentials which should be a part of any church.

DISCUSS: What are some of the traits you see in the early church? How can they apply to our community at Northlake?

READ: Acts 2:44 The Church is to operate as a COMMUNITY.

The church is a living and functioning system of interdependent parts (believers) which constitute the Body of Christ. **Romans 12:4-5** says "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

DISCUSS: What are some of the ways a church resembles a living organism?

Point 1: Being part of a biblical community involves INTENTIONALITY.

A. *Intentional* is done on purpose, not by accident.

B. *Intentional* means refusing to simply go through the motions.

C. *Intentional* means having correct priorities. **Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 10:25**

DISCUSS: Why are you doing what you are doing? Why do you come to church? How are your priorities set when it comes to church and living out your faith?

Point 2: Being part of a biblical community involves UNITY.

READ: Acts 2:44, 46; Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Community is a "common unity" of purpose and interests. It is living a shared life. It means sharing the common experience of our joys, fears, tears, and divine glory.

DISCUSS: What are some examples of community in the secular world? How can we be more unified in our church community? How can we share more with one another?

Point 3: Being part of a biblical community involves MISSIONALITY.

Part of the intentionality of community is a commitment to disciple one another with the gospel and to share the gospel with unbelievers. The church has been given her mission by the Lord Himself.

READ: Matthew 28:18-20

DISCUSS: What are some ways we can help fulfill the Great Commission, as individuals *and* as a group?