

Session 4: Live the Gospel, part 1

Share our lives

Recap

Before we move on, any more questions about how to run discussion?

Biblical Community

“It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 20

Turn to Acts 2:42-47.

How does this passage describe this early Christian community?

Turn to Romans 12:1-21.

What are some themes or recurring ideas in this passage?

What does this passage tell us about God’s desires for Christian community?



Vintage DNA points

1. We are a church of doubters, seekers, and followers.
2. The gospel is deep enough to simultaneously reach doubters, seekers, and followers.
3. We are authentic.
4. We are a family.
5. We are creative.
6. Jesus is worthy of our entire lives.

Take everything we've mentioned about Christian community thus far and compare it to cultural assumptions about community in the world around us. What's similar, and what's different?

Some conclusions about community life:

- The truth of the gospel radically changes our corporate life. (Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:1-2)
- God is highly interested in how we treat each other, not just in us not treating each other poorly but in us treating one another radically well. (Romans 12:9-21)
- Mutual service is inseparable from Christian community. (Acts 2:45 ; Romans 12:6-8)
- True authenticity is a high value. (Romans 12:9)
- Christian community can, and should, involve doubters, seekers, and followers. (Acts 2:47)
- Christian community is more like family than friends – it is given, not chosen.
- Every culture has basic assumptions that undermine Christian community (ex. convenience).
- Some of the goals:
 - Shared worship – Acts 2:43
 - Mutual love and service – Romans 12:9-13
 - Holiness / resisting worldliness – Romans 12:2
 - Witness – Acts 2:47



How do we build this community?

Reading: “Rhythms” from Brad House’s *Community*

Thoughts?

Questions? Concerns?

How do we do this in a way that welcomes doubters, seekers, and followers?

Because God has already laid the foundation of our fellowship, because God has bound us together in one body with other Christians in Jesus Christ, long before we entered into common life with them, we enter into that common life not as demanders but as thankful recipients. We thank God for what he has done for us. We thank God for giving us brethren who live by His call, by His forgiveness, and His promise. We do not complain of what God does not give us; we rather thank God for what He does give us daily. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 28

