

Community

The Power of Relationships in the Local Church

PRECEPT

ACTS 2:42-47

⁴² They were continually and faithfully devoting themselves to the instruction of the apostles, and to fellowship, to eating meals together and to prayers. ⁴³ A sense of awe was felt by everyone, and many wonders and miracles were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing the proceeds with all, as anyone had needed. ⁴⁶ Day after day they met in the temple continuing with one mind, and breaking bread in various private homes. They were eating their meals together with joy and generous hearts. ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

PROMISE

The Christian journey is strengthened and grown in a community of believers beyond Sunday services. This community ought to be a safe place for each one of us; a place to belong and a place where we can be real. This is not the case for many people who has encountered the church, and why is that? First is that churches has lost its community's spirit. It is not making an impact on people's lives anymore and people who go to church does not experience transformation in their lives. Secondly, churches are not relevant in today's culture. Many people do not find significance in going to the church and just deal with their problems and baggages on their own. People are now more concerned with their convenience and tend to think of what will they get out of attending church services than what they can offer to the church. Another problem is that churches are not multiplying anymore. Churches are slowing down and shutting down because people do not share the Gospel and the love of Christ to their friends and families. As we are created to be part of a community, let us break these barriers and be the change people need to see in our church. Let us start being involved intentionally just like the example of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. Here are some practical ways in order for us to be involved:

BE PART OF A LIFE GROUP (ACTS 2:42). The early church is a beautiful example of how a church community should operate; a group of people who are faithful in devoting themselves to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, and to prayers. It is our commitment in Life Community Church to Love unconditionally, Intentionally build trust and confidence, Foster family relationships, and Encourage and pray for one another. Let us practice these at all times with the help of the Holy Spirit.

BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR GIFTS AND RESOURCES (ACTS 2:44-45)

Verse 45 tells us how the early church were so selfless in doing the Lord's work. They sold their possessions to share the proceeds to anyone who are in need. May we be inspired by these acts and serve even in the littlest way we can. Be a blessing to others and you can make a difference in other people's lives.

BE COMMITTED TO CHURCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES (ACTS 2:46). Church attendance is not synonymous to being part of the church community. Committing to church family activities means to being really involved in the Sunday services, trainings, and the like, and these will evidently not only benefit the church, but most importantly, us. These people in the church can get to know our strengths, weaknesses, and the themes of our struggles, and can help us in battling them through prayers and counsel from the Word of God. In a church community is where we can meet people who can love us genuinely if we allow them to, although we're all imperfect, we are upheld by a perfect God.

PRACTICE

1. Involved. How was the early church involved in a community as described in Acts 2:42-47?

2. Application. If you're not yet part of a community of believers (life group, ministry, etc.), what practical steps are you going to take in order to be part of one? If you are already in life groups and in ministries, how will you encourage and inspire someone to join the community?

PRAYER

I. Worship Services

- Praise God for we now have found a facility to gather together on Sundays!

II. Church

- Pray for God's love to always grow in us by the knowledge of Him, resulting in righteousness in our lives.

III. Families

- Pray that God would bless all families with good health and provide all our financial needs.

IV. Discipleship

- Pray for a heart of compassion and grace to disciple others and teach them Christlikeness.

V. Faith

- Pray that we will step out in faith and depend on Christ fully for all that He wants us to accomplish.

VI. Relationships

- Pray that we will develop good and Christ-centred relationships to the people God sends us.

VII. Giving

- Pray for a grateful, giving, and generous heart to be a blessing to others who are in need.