

BETTER TOGETHER



Sunday, April 19, 2026
Pastor Jonathan Armstrong

Big Idea: Community is a defining marker of New Testament Christianity.

Text: Acts 2:41-47

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

1. Biblical community is built on truth.

“They continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...”

1 Timothy 3:15 — *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Proverbs 12:1 — *Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.*

The church is the gathering place of believers where your heart is drawn in by the love of God, your conscience is convicted by the Word of God, your gifts are used to edify the people of God, and you are equipped to go share the grace of God.

Quote: “Spiritual formation in Christ is not a passive process.” — Dallas Willard

2. Biblical community is lived in relationships.

“...and fellowship...”

Fellowship is not just being in the same room. It’s being known which only happens through time spent together.

1 John 1:7 — *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

True fellowship only comes once someone has accepted the truth of the gospel and has become a follower of Christ.

Quote: “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is... what we need more than anything.” — Tim Keller

3. Biblical community is sustained by grace.

“...and in breaking of bread...”

You cannot have community without conflict. Which means you cannot have community without forgiveness.

Colossians 3:13 – *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

Quote: “To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” — C.S. Lewis

4. Biblical community is empowered by dependence.

“...and in prayers.”

James 5:16 — *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed....*

Conclusion

It's easier to do church activities than to be the church in relational vulnerability. Yet, God calls us to this community because He has established it!

Many people don't avoid community because they don't need it. They avoid it because they fear it.

Loneliness is not cured by proximity. It is cured by participation.

Learning To Live Questions

- (1) Do I treat church as a place I attend or a people I belong to?
- (2) If everyone approached church like I do, what kind of community would exist?
- (3) When was the last time biblical truth actually changed something in my life?
- (4) When conflict arises, do I pursue reconciliation or avoid it?
- (5) What fears keep me from being fully known in biblical community?