

BETTER TOGETHER



Sunday, May 10, 2026
Pastor Jonathan Armstrong

Big Idea: Biblical community grows strongest when believers walk together with honesty, humility, and sincerity.

Text: Acts 2:46

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.

Introduction

Biblical community cannot thrive where everyone feels pressure to look impressive.

1. Biblical community requires sincere hearts.

Acts 2:46 — 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.

The phrase “singleness of heart” speaks of sincerity.

The word “aphelotes” speaks of a life without “stones” — meaning a smooth, uncomplicated attitude free from deceit, selfishness, or hidden agendas.

1 Corinthians 3:4-7 — *For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*

We do not follow Christ with selfish motivation but pure motivation.

Romans 12:9 — *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

“Dissimulation” means hypocrisy or pretending.

2. Biblical community grows through weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 12:9 — *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Paul was more effective in ministry when he was in pain than when he was in prosperity.

Galatians 6:2 — *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

Weakness honestly shared often becomes the bridge to deeper community.

You cannot bear burdens nobody knows exist.

People connect more deeply through scars than through success.

3. Biblical community creates places for confession.

James 5:16 — *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Healing, support, prayer, accountability grows where honesty exists.

Quote: “When we walk together in sincerity, giving one another permission to not have it all together, we are stronger.” — Ben Mandrell

1 John 1:6-7 — *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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.*

What stays hidden often stays unhealed.

This is a place of hands on, dirty and messy healing.

This is what the truth of the gospel promises: no matter where you are, what you’ve done, who you are... there is hope and healing in Jesus!

The strongest Christians are not the ones pretending to have no weakness. They are the ones who know how to bring weakness to Christ and community.

Biblical community becomes powerful when people stop pretending and start walking honestly together.

Learning To Live Questions

- (1) Where am I tempted to project strength instead of honesty?
- (2) Who truly knows me spiritually?
- (3) What struggle have I hidden because I fear people's opinions?
- (4) Am I more committed to appearing mature or actually growing mature?