



THE POWER OF
Community

Exploring Acts 2:42-47

**Ekklesia - a group of people called together
for a purpose**

Christianity is a personal choice, but it was never meant to be done individually.

**...who gave Himself for us to redeem us
from all wickedness and to purify for
Himself **a people** that are His very own,
eager to do what is good.**

Titus 2:14

**God uses community to spread and grow
His church.**

True Christian community is HARD!!!

Barriers to Community

Lack of awareness

Lack of understanding

Lack of trust

Cultural differences

Socioeconomic factors

Conflict and division

Politics

Social Isolation

Time

Scary

Past experiences

Lack of safety

How do you build the kind of community that has the power to change not only your life, but the life of those around you?

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

1) Devotion to the Word

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship

Acts 2:42a

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

Acts 2:43

**The Word of God informs every aspect of
your life. —**

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

1) Devotion to the Word

2) Devotion to one another

**They devoted themselves to the apostles'
teaching and **to fellowship**...**

Acts 2:42b

**All the believers were together and had
everything in common.**

Acts 2:44

**It is through our relationship with Jesus
that we have relationships with other
believers.**

“If people are out of fellowship with Christ, then they will be out of fellowship with the church. And if people are out of fellowship with Jesus’s people, that is an indicator they may be out of fellowship with Jesus.”

-Tony Merida

A Picture of Real Devotion

John 13:34 (**love**)

James 4:11 (not critical) Romans 12:5 (one)

Romans 12:10 (**love**)

Ephesians 4:32 (kind) Philippians 2:3 (Humble)

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (encourage)

Ephesians 4:2 (**love**) James 5:9 (no complaints)

It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brothers and sisters.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer ‘*Life Together*’

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

1) Devotion to the Word

2) Devotion to one another

3) Devotion to the breaking of bread

The Apostles spoke to the people's hearts and minds, but the breaking of the bread would have spoken to their eyes and memory.

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

- 1) Devotion to the Word
- 2) Devotion to one another
- 3) Devotion to the breaking of bread
- 4) Devotion to prayer

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:31

**So Peter was kept in prison, but the church
was earnestly praying to God for him.**

Acts 12:5

³ “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6: 3-4

**A healthy community is a praying
community.**

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

- 1) Devotion to the Word
- 2) Devotion to one another
- 3) Devotion to the breaking of bread
- 4) Devotion to prayer
- 5) **Radical Generosity**

**They sold property and possessions to give
to anyone who had need.**

Acts 2:45

(see also 4:32 - 37)

This is an example of God using what **He has first given us so that we can meet **the needs** of others and to make an impact on **the lost.****

**We should give freely, voluntarily,
sacrificially, and generously to the work of
God's Kingdom.**

**To fill the needs of others, we need to be
aware of the needs first.**

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

- 1) Devotion to the Word
- 2) Devotion to one another
- 3) Devotion to the breaking of bread
- 4) Devotion to prayer
- 5) Radical Generosity
- 6) Constant interaction with one another

**Every day they continued to meet together
in the temple courts.**

Acts 2:46a

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

**Half the job of being a part of community
and being a good church member is simply
showing up.**

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

- 1) Devotion to the Word
- 2) Devotion to one another
- 3) Devotion to the breaking of bread
- 4) Devotion to prayer
- 5) Radical Generosity
- 6) Constant interaction with one another
- 7) Gathering in both large and small groups

**Every day they continued to meet together
in the **temple courts**. They broke bread in
their homes and ate together with glad and
sincere hearts,**

Acts 2:46

In church services, you get the theory of the Christian life. Small groups are where the theory of living for God becomes a plan to live out.

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- 2) Devotion to one another
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- 4) Devotion to prayer
- 5) Radical Generosity
- 6) Constant interaction with one another
- 7) Gathering in both large and small groups
- 8) A spirit of awe, gladness and praise to God

**Everyone was filled with awe at the many
wonders and signs**

Acts 2:43a

**praising God and enjoying the favor of all
the people.**

Acts 2:47a

We need to replace the idea that church is boring and full of gloom and doom with the awe and gladness that living in Christian community gives!

9 Ways to Build Healthy Community

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- 4) Devotion to prayer
- 5) Radical Generosity
- 6) Constant interaction with one another
- 7) Gathering in both large and small groups
- 8) A spirit of awe, gladness and praise to God
- 9) Display an attractive faith

**And the Lord added to their number daily
those who were being saved.**

Acts 2:47b

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13: 34-35

**Further, if one or other of them have
bondmen and bondwomen or children,
through love towards them they persuade
them to become Christians, and when they
have done so, they call them brethren
without distinction.**

They do not worship strange gods, and they go their way in all modesty and cheerfulness. Falsehood is not found among them; and they love one another, and from widows they do not turn away their esteem; and they deliver the orphan from him who treats him harshly.

**And he, who has, gives to him who has not,
without boasting. And when they see a
stranger, they take him in to their homes
and rejoice over him as a very brother; for
they do not call them brethren after the
flesh, but brethren after the spirit and in
God.**

And whenever one of their poor passes from the world, each one of them according to his ability gives heed to him and carefully sees to his burial. And if they hear that one of their number is imprisoned or afflicted on account of the name of their Messiah,

all of them anxiously minister to his necessity, and if it is possible to redeem him they set him free. And if there is among them any that is poor and needy, and if they have no spare food, they fast two or three days in order to supply to the needy their lack of food.

- Aristides