

Called to Community

Text: Romans 12:3-5

Introduction: *Even as every part of the human anatomy has been assigned by God with a special function for the good of the whole body, so every member of the body of Jesus Christ also has a different function for the good of the whole body. As we read the New Testament, we discover that **members of Christ's body**:*

I. Commit _____ One Another

Acts 2:44-47 "devoted" to one another "The Christians you meet in the book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for 'services as usual.' They met daily for worship (2:46), cared for each other daily (6:1), won souls to the Lord daily (2:47), searched and studied the scriptures daily (17:11), and as a result, they increased in number daily (2:47)" (Be Dynamic, by Warren Wiersbe). (see also Hebrews 10:25&26)
"Every Christian needs to be involved in a small group within their church, whether it is a home fellowship group, a Sunday School class, or a Bible study. This is where real community takes place, not in the big gatherings" (Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren)

II. Care _____ One Another

I Corinthians 12:20&21,26; Acts 2:44&45
John 13:1; James 2:14-17; Galatians 6:2, 9&10; IJn.3:16-18
"The church is only the church, when it exists for others" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
"Love talked about can be easily turned aside, but love demonstrated is irresistible." (Stanley Mooneham)

III. Confide _____ One Another

30% of all Americans have admitted experiencing long periods of loneliness.
70% of all Americans don't know their neighbors. "Loneliness is the devastating malady of our age" (Paul Tournier).
Psalm 102:6&7,9

Conclusion: Releasing the power of God through our lives into the hearts and souls of others requires that we enter into a relationship with one another that only the gospel of Jesus Christ makes possible, a kind of relating we call connecting. Doing so requires walking by faith in God's power and not by sight in our own weaknesses (II Corinthians 5:7).