

THE CHURCH – COMMUNITY

4/7/2024

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

- a. Community
- b. Worship as part of our daily lifestyle
- c. Spiritual growth
- d. Stewardship
- e. Reach out to the world and communities around us

They were devoted to community.

koinonia, is koinos, which means “common” or “profane, impure.”

How to Experience Community

1. You make *time* for it.

2. You *contribute* to it.

You will get hurt. I actually think this is part of God's plan for the church (though that does not excuse the one who causes the pain). He wants us to learn to forgive and show grace. This is where it takes true grit, a staunch stomach and a test of a faith. You need to stick it out... When you've done this step, you've found your spiritual family. – “How to Find a Church” - Pastor Rick Harrington

3. You take a *genuine interest* in the lives of others.

“Our with-ness aids our witness.” – Skip Heitzig

What authentic community feels like and its impact:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. Psalm 133