

Sacred Living: Community, Service & Mission 9/25/2007

Community. This is not a casual relationship. We need the other members to live as a whole body. The relationship is to be so deep that when one suffers, all suffer, and when one is honored, then all rejoice. It is so important that God himself places each member in their position as it pleases His purposes.

1 Corinthians 12:13, 27 (NLT) ¹³Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.
²⁷All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

Question: What is community today? How large is it? How small is it?

Question: Are small groups the same as community?

Service. We are placed in the Body of Christ to serve. Each of us has a special work that helps the other parts to grow, and when we are all doing our part, the whole fits perfectly together and is healthy, growing, and full of love.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) ¹⁶He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Question: What is "service to the Body"? What does "service" look like?

Question: Is service to the Body the same as service in the church?

Mission. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must take up the mission that Christ has assigned his followers. We are "sent ones"; for Christ has sent us into the world to reconcile people back to him.

John 17:18,20 (NLT) ¹⁸Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ... ²⁰"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

Question: Is your mission in life the mission of Jesus Christ? What difference would this make in our attitudes and priorities?

Suggested Reading:

1 Corinthians 12-14; 1 Peter; 2 Peter
"Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
"Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren
"S.H.A.P.E." by Erik Rees
"Becoming a Contagious Christian" by Bill Hybels

Suggested Small Group Topics:

- Review questions asked tonight. Define actions for each duty.
- Discuss the role of Duty, Honor & Country for a follower of Jesus.