



Real SMALL Community
Meets Each Other's Needs (Acts 2:44-45)
 By Pastor David Hillis, 17 January 2016

BIG IDEA: Spiritual maturity comes in part from humbly accepting that I *need* others in my life, to help meet my needs in life and theirs.

REAL COMMUNITY = SMALL COMMUNITY

- We need others to help meet our physical, emotional and spiritual needs in life; we can't do it alone. We have to be humble enough to offer and to receive help. That only happens as we create space in our lives for those relationships to develop.

THE EARLY CHURCH WAS ATTRACTIVE

- *Notice* their commitment –
 - They weren't seeing community as an unnecessary "add-on" to their lives; they "devoted" themselves to this. They gave their *best* to each other.
 - Acts 2:44 says they were *together*, they were *united*.
 - They were not *physically meeting* all together as believers in one big place; they didn't need to. The small groups they gathered in were *amazing*. When it came to the needs they each had, they were as one *there*, as well!
1. **There was NEVER a need among them** (Acts 4:32-35; 2 Thess. 3:10; Acts 2:44-45).
 2. **Meeting each others' needs showed how they were like a family, full of love & joy toward each other** (Romans 12:4-5,13; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:6-9; 2 Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 13:16).
 3. **Meeting the needs of those we're in real, small community with goes beyond finances** (Colossians 1:24; Hebrews 10:32-34).

MY NEXT STEP

How eager are you to find ways to offer support or meet the needs of those in your small group when they arise?

Are you humble enough to share your needs, when you have them?

FOR FURTHER STUDY/REFLECTION THIS WEEK:

1. Review Acts 2:42-47 again this week, paying particular attention to verses 44-45. Consider where you are in real, small community where you see these qualities (like people meeting each other's needs regularly), and if you do not have such community, how might you do something about that.
2. Think about this statement: "If we desire to experience the totality of fellowship with Christ, we must expect to experience the fellowship of His sufferings (Phil. 3:10)." Is it an important goal to share in the totality of Christ's experience? What does that mean for your life, today?
3. Read Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. What do these chapters say to you about mutual ownership? What does it mean to belong to one another? What are the implications of that, if followed as Scripture intends?
4. Read Romans 12:13 and 1 John 3:17. How do these verses speak to you about life right now with those you are in relationship with? What might God be asking of you that might seem difficult, even almost impossible?