

Sermon Discussion Guide

Redeemer Church /// Fall Vision Series, 2012

Week 3: Live in Community

WORSHIP JESUS 

GET TRAINED 

LIVE IN COMMUNITY 

BE ON MISSION 

INTRODUCTION

For the month of September, we are discussing the 4 core values that we hope will define the people and ministry of Redeemer. This week, we are talking about “Live In Community”. We were created by community for community. Before mankind was created, the Trinity was a perfect community. And from this perfect community of love and submission, God made men and women to live out the gospel with community – from families, to cities, to his ultimate community, the church. The church is all those whom Christ has bought with His blood, making a people for His own possession (1 Peter 2, Deuteronomy 7, Titus 2). As we walk in this identity with fellow believers, it is in and through this gospel community that he will change us, mature us, and carry out his mission.

READ Colossians 3:1-17

DISCUSSION

How does the concept of close Christian community fly in the face of our Western culture? Upon which cultural “values” does this trample and why?

EXPLANATION

- As redeemed children of God (vv. 1-4), we now have a new Identity. Why does Paul emphasize our identity before these instructions about holiness and community?
- What does Christian community look like when people don’t believe and rest in their new gospel identity? What sort of distortions might this lead to?
- What does the bible say about the difference between true friendships and mere companions (Prov. 18:24, 17:17)?
- What do we do with the argument... “I don’t need this sort of community. My family is my community”?
- What does the writer of Hebrews mean when he says to “stir one another to love and good deeds?”
- How should biblical community lead to mission? How can our community group be more missional?

APPLICATION

- Do you have friends of which you could say...
 - “I would love Jesus less without these friends?”
 - “I would be much more sinful than I am without these friends?”
- How are you neglecting community?
- Consider your community group.
 - What are the strengths of your current community group?
 - What are its weaknesses?
 - Do you find encouragement to grow and love Jesus there?
- Do you consistently and honestly confess sin?
 - If not, what prevents you? (*i.e.* – fear, previous experiences, etc.)
 - Ask your group to pray for you and challenge one another in this.
- Are you comfortable encouraging or confronting other believers, particularly those in your group?
- Are you gracious towards others when they have sinned?
- In small groups (if you aren’t there already), discuss this question with someone.... “What sins are you hiding, or trying to manage? Why?”

A sampling of the "one anothers" in the New Testament:

Rom. 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Rom. 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Rom. 15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Rom. 15:14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

1Cor. 11:33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—

1Cor. 12:25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

2Cor. 13:11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Gal. 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Gal. 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Gal. 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Eph. 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Eph. 5:19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

Col. 3:9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

Col. 3:13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1Th. 3:12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

1Th. 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1Th. 5:15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Heb. 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

Heb. 10:25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

1Pet. 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

1Pet. 4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1Pet. 4:9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1Pet. 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.