

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Chris Payne

Weekend of June 21, 2020

Now More Than Ever: Community is our Design

INTRODUCTION

- Describe one thing that you long for in community?
- What is one way that you have felt a sense of community over the past three months? If you haven't experienced community, what has that been like?
- In your own words, what are the benefits of being a part of a biblical community?
- Pray and ask the Lord to lead and guide your thoughts and heart as we take a look at **Community is our Design**.

As we begin our time in prayer, here is a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*:

"Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our fellowship is in Jesus Christ alone, the more serenely shall we think of our fellowship and pray and hope for it."

INTO THE BIBLE

Read Acts 2:40-47

- Describe everything you observe about the community of the first New Testament church as recorded in Acts 2.

Chris described the definition of the word community as a compound of two words, "with" and "unity."

- What are the different ways you see these two words described in these verses?



Chris stated that true unity with one another comes from true unity in Christ Jesus.

- What are some things that might describe “true unity in Christ Jesus?”
- What are some examples of the way unity but not uniformity could be experienced in Biblical community?

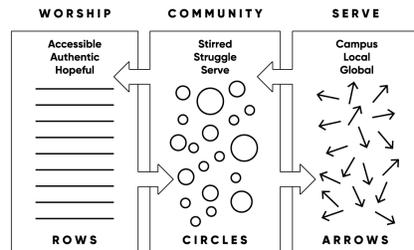
Chris stated that “A lack of devotion is the real enemy of biblical community.”

- In what ways do you observe devotion in Chapter 2 of Acts?
- What might be some of the reasons why we lack devotion to community?
- What might be ways your community could demonstrate and engage in the three S’s of community: (1) Stirred by the scriptures (2) Struggle well together (3) Serve others?
- Why might it be important that we include all of three S’s in biblical community?

APPLICATION

New City has a biblical framework for community: Worship, Community, and Service.

New City Biblical Framework



Chris stated that it is within the context of this biblical framework of community that God is able to grow us up and out.

- How is God growing you up during this season of your life?
- In what ways is God growing you out?
- What might it look like for you to take an intentional step toward biblical community?
- What needs to be shifted or prioritized in your life in order for you to make community a deeper reality in your life?



Let's spend some time in prayer, thanking God for His design for community in our lives. Have a conversation with God about any sins, judgements, walls, criticisms, pride, priorities or hesitations that you might need to lay at the foot of the cross in order for you to be willing to move toward others in true community.

Romans 12:3-5

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (ESV)