

## Developing True Community

New Life Lessons  
August 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
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### Day One – John 13:34, John 17:23 & Philippians 1:9-11.

When Jesus gave the command to really “love each other” as he loves us, and prayed that we would be brought together in “complete unity,” what does that kind of community look like in today’s world? In our church? In your family? What are the words and phrases in Philippians 1:9-11 that describe this kind of authentic community?

**Pray** - Thank God for the relationships in your life. Pray that together you will make a mutual commitment to develop authentic community.

**Day Two – Read Romans 12:9, Proverbs 15:28; Ephesians 4:15 & 29 & John 1:14.** How do our words help or hurt the development of authentic community? Why do we need both “grace and truth” in a healthy relationship? How do you know what to say, how to say it, and when or when not to say it?

**Pray** – Thank God for his Word, and that it has come to us in Christ, the Word of God – made flesh. Pray that his Word would “dwell in us richly” so that our words would be helpful as we encourage each other with the truth. Ask God to help you speak helpful, hopeful and healing words today. And, if difficult truth needs to be shared, ask that you will speak it in love.

**Day Three – Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:9-21.** We are not saved “by good works,” but we are saved “for good works.” To be “holy” is to be cleansed and set apart for a purpose. God has a purpose for us individually and collectively. The best “good work” we can do is to “love one another.” (John 13:34; 17:23) May our service to each other and with each other be like a light in this dark world. May we shine for the glory of God! (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:15.)

**Pray** - Ask God that together, as a church, we can do all he’s calling us to do. Who are the people you are serving? Who’s serving you? Who are you serving with?

## “The Wealth of True Community”

### True Riches #7

Philippians 1:9-11; Romans 12:9-21; John 13:34; 17:23

**Philippians 1:9-11** (NLT) <sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will **keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.** <sup>10</sup> For I want you to **understand what really matters**, so that **you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.** <sup>11</sup> May you always be **filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.**

## What is “Community?”

**Acts 2:42** (NIV) <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. *koinōnia – “partnership, common life”*

**1 John 1:7** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> 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, purifies us from all sin. 2 Corinthians 6:14

## Building Blocks of True Community

### 1. The Courage to Seek Christ .

**Luke 9:23** (NLT) <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowd, “**If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.**” John 10:10b; 13:34; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14

**Ephesians 4:3-6** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is **one body** and **one Spirit**-- just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called-- <sup>5</sup> **one Lord, one faith, one baptism;** <sup>6</sup> **one God and Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## 2. The Commitment to Grow .

**Philippians 1:9-10** (NLT) <sup>9</sup> I pray that **your love will overflow** more and more, and that you will **keep on growing in knowledge and understanding**. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to **understand what really matters**, so that you may **live pure and blameless lives** until the day of Christ's return.

**Romans 12:10** (NIV) Be **devoted** to one another in **brotherly love**. **Honor one another** above yourselves. **honor** ( time – “to treat with value; to appreciate” )

**Romans 12:11–12** (NIV) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> **Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.** James 5:16

## 3. The Willingness to Be Real .

**Romans 12:9** (NIV) Love must be **sincere**. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. John 1:14; Proverbs 15:28; 27:6, 17

**Ephesians 4:15, 29** (NIV) **Speaking the truth in love**, we will **in all things grow up** into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but **only** what is **helpful** for **building others up** according to **their needs**, that it may **benefit** those who **listen**. Proverbs 25:11; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

## 4. The Resolve to Stay .

**John 17:23** (NIV) May they be brought to **complete unity** to **let the world know** that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

**Romans 12:16** (NIV) Live in **harmony** with one another. Do not be **proud**, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be **conceited**.

(The Message) **Get along** with each other; don't be **stuck-up**. Make friends with **nobodies**; don't be **the great somebody**. Romans 12:3 – 5; Philippians 2:3 – 7

**Romans 12:17–18** (NIV) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup> **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

## 5. The Readiness to Serve .

**Ephesians 2:8-10** (NLT) <sup>8</sup> **God saved you by his grace** when you **believed**. And you **can't take credit for this**; it is a **gift from God**. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is **not a reward** for the **good things** we have done, **so none of us can boast about it**. <sup>10</sup> For **we are God's masterpiece**. He has **created us anew** in Christ Jesus, **so we can do the good things** he **planned for us** long ago. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**Romans 12:13** (NIV) **Share** with **God's people** who are in **need**. Practice **hospitality**.

**Galatians 6:10** (NIV) Therefore, as we have **opportunity**, let us **do good to all people**, especially to those who belong to **the family of believers**. Proverbs 11:25; Acts 2:45

**Romans 12:15** (NIV) **Rejoice** with those who rejoice; **mourn** with those who mourn.

**Job's Friends**, Job 2:11 – 13

**Hushai, David's Friend**, 1 Chronicles 27:33; 2 Sam. 15:32

**Proverbs 10:19b, 32a** <sup>19a</sup> He who **holds his tongue** is wise. <sup>32a</sup> **the lips of the righteous** know what is **fitting**. Proverbs 27:6

**1 Peter 2:9** (NLT) <sup>9</sup> You are **God's very own possession**. As a result, you can **show others the goodness of God**, for he **called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light**. Matthew 5:16

**Ephesians 1:18** (NIV) <sup>18</sup> I pray also that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may **know the hope** to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints**.