

True Spirituality; Becoming a r12 Christian, May 29 – June 1

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Session 5: How to Experience Authentic Community

Review:

- **About a relationship**, not rules, not activity
- About understanding that Jesus is the **ONLY WAY** for us to be in right standing with God
- **The RESULT** of true spirituality is rest, refreshment, and joy!
- Surrender is **TAUGHT** and **MODELED** by Jesus, Himself
- Surrender is **the CHANNEL** through which God’s biggest and best blessings flow.
- We are in a **REAL BATTLE** against satan and a world system designed to destroy us
- God’s Word is the **KEY** to winning the battle and transform our hearts and minds
- God is the **ONLY ONE** to give us an accurate view of ourselves
- I must get into **God’s Word** and understand who I am in Christ

1. Describe the closest friendship you have ever had and what made that friendship so special?

2. What characteristics would you use to define authentic biblical community?

3 questions:

1. **Stop...** Examine the peace of your life and the depth of our relationships.
Who do I need to go deeper with?
2. **Look...** Pay attention to the needs of the people in your relational world.
Who has some needs that you could meet?
3. **Listen...** Ask God to show you who and where to serve in love.
Where do I start?

Authentic community happens when the real you meets real needs for the right reasons in the right way.

Romans 12:9-13 Marks of the True Christian

Let love be **genuine**. **Abhor** what is evil; **hold fast** to what is good. Love one another with **brotherly affection**. **Outdo one another** in showing **honor**. **Do not** be **slothful in zeal**, be **fervent in spirit**, **serve the Lord**. **Rejoice in** **hope**, be **patient** in **tribulation**, be **constant** in **prayer**. **Contribute** to the needs of the saints and **seek to show hospitality**.

1. What did Jesus teach about authentic community?

Let love be without hypocrisy, take off the mask....

Until we come to grips with how God made us we won't be able to take off the mask

John 13:34-35 (ESV) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Romans 12: 9,10

- The gospel is _____ by how deeply we love one another.
- Authentic community is at the _____ of Christianity

Romans 12:9-13

John 17:21 (ESV) that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Romans 12:11

2. How did Jesus model “the way” to build authentic community in His life?

- R12 Christianity is caught in _____.

Characteristics of Community

- ✓ A place and time (They were intentional)
- ✓ A Meal
- ✓ Singing
- ✓ Truth-telling
- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Serving

John 13:3-5 (ESV) ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:17 (ESV) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Romans 12: 12, 13

- True community is not defined by a warm, fuzzy feeling. rather, it is defined by self-sacrificing love.

3. What is Jesus saying to you about the depth and quality of your relationships?

John 15:13 (ESV) Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

So What?

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Throne room questions:

What is stopping you from experiencing authentic community?

What steps do you need to take to experience real, life-changing authentic community?

TAKEAWAYS:

