FINDING COMMUNITY

September 14th / 15th, 2024
Pastor Steve

Finding Community

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers... And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. Acts 2:42, 44 (MSG)

Community is a group of people doing life together who are committed to loving _____ as much as they _____.

37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."
Matthew 22:37-40

Realities of Christian Community:

I) I was _____.
   A) Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." Genesis 2:18
   B) Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1:26
   C) God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10

II) Community Happens Best in _____.
   A) Commitments of Effective Small Groups: I Give and Receive:
      1) _____.

         When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. Romans 1:12

2) _____.

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1:4

3) _____.

Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:16 (TLB)

4) _____.

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

5) _____.

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power & wonderful results. James 5:16 (TLB)

III) Community requires _____.

A) Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. 1 Peter 4:8 (MSG)

B) Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. 1 John 3:18

My Next Step Is:

- I'm deciding for Christ and accepting the free gift of Salvation!
- I'm recommitting my life to Christ.
- I will memorize 1 John 3:16.
- I will sign up for a small group today.