

True Community

together to create

True Community Part 1
Pastor Tim Bittle
8.12.18

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Galatians 5:25-26 (VOICE)

²⁵ Now since we have chosen to walk with the Spirit, let's keep each step in perfect sync with God's Spirit. ²⁶ This will happen when we set aside our self-interests and work together to create **true community** instead of a culture consumed by provocation, pride, and envy.

Galatians 5:26

...work together to create TRUE COMMUNITY instead of a CULTURE consumed by PRIDE, PROVOCATION and ENVY.

"Become the one that the one you are looking for is looking for." – Andy Stanley

BECOME THE PERSON that **EMBODIES** the **COMMUNITY** you're looking for.

Galatians 5:26

THIS WILL HAPPEN WHEN we **SET ASIDE OUR SELF-INTERESTS** and **WORK TOGETHER.**

1. Selfless

“Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.” – J.F.K.

“Ask not what your community can do for you but what you can do for your community.” – T.I.B.

2. Interdependence

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

⁹Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ¹¹Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? ¹²A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer . . .

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What is one quality you look for in a friend?
2. Everybody needs true community, but very few of us have it. If you've experienced it, you know it. What are some characteristics of true community?
3. Read Galatians 5:25-26 from the Voice Translation (above). How does this passage describe our natural drift when it comes to community and culture apart from the Holy Spirit? On the spectrum of harmless to hurtful, what cultural/fake community do you have an affinity with? Do you recognize the pull toward pride, provocation and envy in that culture? How does true community differ from that?
4. Jesus prayed in John 17 a prayer for all believers, the Church, that we would be one in him. Pastor Tim reminded us that the church should define true community, not our culture. We are to be the display of the love of God in our

5. world. What would true community look like in the church if we lived out John 17?
6. What are some characteristics of true community that you long for? Pastor Tim said we must “become the people that embody the community we want to see.” Let it start with me. What is one way that you can begin being true community for others? Whom can you serve this week? What are practical ways to invite people into community?
7. Stepping out may require us to confront the fear of rejection. How do we move past the fear of being rejected by people?
8. Part of true community (Eccl. 4:9-12) is being interdependent. What needs to change in you to become the person that cares enough to pray **with** someone, not just **for** that person? To cover someone’s back? To mourn with someone who is mourning?