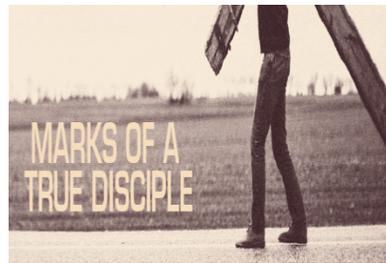


The Six Marks of a Disciple of Jesus”

Part 3: “Pursuing Community”

**Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:1-6, 5:1;
I Corinthians 12-13; Romans 12:1-13;
Colossians 3:12-17**



Introduction: Acts 2:42-47 describes the gathering of those who believed in Jesus Christ, what GOD calls the “Church,” the “*ekklesia*,” the “*called-out assembly*.”

Many want to mold the church into a social institution in order to accomplish THEIR goals, failing to understand that the Church is a SPIRITUAL Body that exists for the glory of God.

As a disciple of Jesus, you belong to Him! You are a child of GOD, saved by grace, and you now exist for HIS purposes.

The Bride of Christ is most beautiful when we live together in community!

I. God creates community ...

God created order in the Church and outlines in His Word a very simple structure: Elders, responsible for teaching, preaching and praying, and Deacons, responsible for stewardship of the gifts of God’s people.

I Corinthians 12:12-13: “For just as the Body is one and has many members, ... so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body!” (See also **verses 21-26**)

I John 1:3:

The “fellowship” that forms a Biblical community is experienced on a spiritual level.

Ephesians 4:1-6:

Jesus didn’t say, “I will build my churches!” He said, “I will build my Church!!!”(Matthew 16:18).

As part of the Body, our focus is on Christ and we are ONE in Him!

II. Truth maintains community ...

A **lighthouse** does two things: it warns of the danger of the rocks along the shore and it points the way to a safe harbor ... and that requires TRUTH !!

Acts 2:42: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.”

Galatians 1:6-9:

We cannot create a true spiritual community, but we are called to maintain it, and the only way to do that is to teach Biblical DOCTRINE !

II Timothy 4:1-4:

Ephesians 4:11-16:

TRUTH is like blood to the Body, going out to all the parts, giving it the nutrients it needs to be healthy and strong.

Hebrews 5:11-14:

The only way to maintain the community God has created is by knowing and proclaiming HIS truth.

III. Love builds community ...

I Corinthians 13:1-8:

The love that builds up the Body is an intentional commitment to Christ AND to His people, His Body, His Bride.

Romans 12:9-10: “Let love be genuine. ... Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Colossians 3:12-17:

Ephesians 5:1-2:

Knowing and sharing the truth is the most loving thing you can do to encourage others in their faith and in their life.