

Biblical Community That Turns the World Upside Down

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Acts 17:1-9

1 Group

6 Glorious Traits of Biblical Community

1.) Christians develop boldness in their walk and they are willing to endure much to create biblical community. (v. 1, 2)

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Matthew 28:18-20

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

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6 Glorious Traits of Biblical Community

2.) The Gospel is the central motivation of biblical community (have been approved by God) and message proclaimed (declare to you the gospel of God). (v. 3-4, 2, 8)

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6 Glorious Traits of Biblical Community


3.) A Christian's dominant mindset is to GIVE to the community more than it is to get from it. (v. 5)

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This is who you are as a Christian. The moment you become a Christian, you are a giver by nature. You may not have become fully what you are yet, but this is who you are. Self-giving is part of your new nature, your essence, your identity.

- John Piper


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 **Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another** (1 Peter 5:5)
• **Be kind and compassionate to one another** (Ephesians 4:32)
• **Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19)
• **Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works** (Hebrews 10:24)
• **Show hospitality to one another** (1 Peter 4:9)

- **Teach one another** (Colossians 3:16)
- **Comfort one another** (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- **Encourage one another** (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- **Exhort one another** (Hebrews 3:13)
- **Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another** (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Look to the interests of one another** (Philippians 2:4)
- **Bear with one another** (Colossians 3:13)

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 **Love one another** (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)

- **Be devoted to one another** (Romans 12:10)
- **Honor one another above yourselves** (Romans 12:10)
- **Live in harmony with one another** (Romans 12:16)
- **Build up one another** (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- **Admonish one another** (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- **Pray for one another** (James 5:16)

- **Bear one another's burdens** (Galatians 6:2)
- **Forgive one another** (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- **Be patient with one another** (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- **Speak the truth in love** (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
- **Care for one another** (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- **Serve one another** (Galatians 5:13)
- **Confess your sins to one another** (James 5:16)

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6 Glorious Traits of Biblical Community

4.) The ultimate aim for all biblical communities is the glory of God. (v. 6ff)

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Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD; that is My Name; My glory I give to no other, ...

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6 Glorious Traits of Biblical Community

5.) Believers continually grow in a selfless love for others. (v. 8-9)

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Hebrews 10:24

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...

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6 Glorious Traits of Biblical Community

6.) Being in biblical community means we are willing to be vulnerable and share our soul. (v. 8)

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Where the gospel flourishes, people share their own souls—their joy and guilt and fear and longing and passion.

- John Piper

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Acts 2:44-45

An Example of New Testament Biblical Community

[44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

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Acts 2:46-47

[46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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