

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 25/26, 2017 Ray Davis

“True Community” Luke 6:12-36

The life change and the influence in culture that God most longs for, best happens through Christians in True Community. These are people who are not just checking the church box on weekends and getting lost in the crowd but are getting into small groups, meeting in homes and enjoying meals together and talking about real life issues as they listen, love, laugh and learn how to live a contagious Christian life. Church is a place where strangers become friends and friends become family.

TRUE COMMUNITY

Why We Need It? vv12-19

- 1) It raises or falls with leadership. Matt 20:20-28
- 2) As our relationship with God goes so goes human community. Matt 22:34-40; 1John
- 3) To become a Christian is not just to be reconciled to God but also to be woven into a new human community that includes every race and culture. v17, Rev 5:9
- 4) It will add to your life a dimension of: strength, happiness, affirmation and wealth that can't be found anywhere else. Eccle 4:9-12

What Are Its Characteristics? vv20-36

- 1) The values of people inside the community.
World's Values: vv24-26 rich (power), full (comfort), laugh (gloat), and all men speak well of you (celebrity, acclaim, popularity).
God's Values: vv 20-23 weakness, sacrifice, grieving, and exclusion.
 - ✓ The Gospel sets you free from being controlled by the world's values and therefore causes you to relate to people, things and circumstances differently. 1John 2:15-17
 - ✓ The Gospel gives you a blessedness (deep satisfaction) that not only isn't diminished by PTC but is actually substantially developed through bad PTC. James 1:2-4
 - ✓ The Gospel eliminates any towering or cowering kind of relationships. Phil 2:1-8

- 2) Their relationship to people outside the community. vv27-34
 - ✓ Inner work: Do not be overcome by evil. Rom 12:21a; vv27-28
 - ✓ Outer work: Overcome evil with good. Rom12:21b; vv29-34
 - ✓ Once you have drained yourself of ill will (inner work) speak the truth in love (outer work). Eph 4:15, 25

What Should Motivate It? vv35-36 I Must Never Forget...

- 1) That I was so sinful Jesus had to die for me—there was no other way. Therefore I am a work in progress. vv32, 33, 34 Even sinners... v35 He is kind to the ungrateful & the evil. Rom 3:23; 1John 1:8
- 2) The Most High is my Father, who is kind and merciful to me even when I am ungrateful and evil. Therefore I will do the same for you. Rom 5:8; Luke 11:13

Christianity is about a man dying on the cross for His enemies. So the church is a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus' sake.

Growing Notes

- 1) What are your thoughts and feelings about the intro of this sermon? Which one best represents you: Getting lost in the crowd or getting connected to true community? Why should church be a place where strangers become friends and friends become family (Acts2:42-47)?
- 2) Read Luke 6:12-36. What stands out to you from this text? Review the points under why we need true community. How important is leadership in the church? Why are our horizontal relationships the acid test of our vertical relationship with God? What are the benefits of true community?
- 3) Review the points under what are the characteristics of true community. How do God's values differ from the world's values? People who embrace God's values will respond to people, things and circumstances differently. Explain. How should those in true community relate to those outside the community?
- 4) Review the points under what should motivate true community. Why is pride and fear the result of forgetting these two truths? Because we are the most loved, forgiven & reconciled people in the world we should be the most loving, forgiving & reconciling people in the world! Explain. What is God speaking to you through this study? Pray.