

RCMI L-Path Teaching

March 26, 2023

Title: **Grow in Community**

Big Idea: **This topic encourages us to devote and commit ourselves to the community that God has placed. Because nobody grows alone. We need God and each other to attain maturity.**

Text: **Acts 2:42-47**

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

5 Reasons why we need to be in a strong church community:

1. A strong church community meets our basic need to belong.

We need people in our lives because we are created to need relationships. It's part of who we are. We can't help it.

2. A strong church community is a place for discipleship.

When we are truly part of a strong church community we will be on both the receiving and giving ends of discipleship. Being part of a strong church community requires us to be actively engaged. We can't just sit in our seats on Sunday morning and expect any of this to happen.

3. A strong church community will hold us accountable.

We need accountability measures in our lives, we need a strong, doctrinally sound church community to be our accountability partner (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Timothy 5:19-20).

4. We need to be fed a diet that will allow us to mature in our relationship with the LORD.

Just like a baby will not grow into a toddler without the proper care. We won't grow beyond the stage of just knowing whom Jesus is to knowing Jesus intimately and personally without the love and care that comes from a strong church community.

5. We are commanded by God to be part of a strong church community.

We find a beautiful picture of how the church, with all its imperfections, can be a community like no other. Let's consider three postures of the early church: inward, upward, and outward.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

How to Grow in the Community?

I. We need to have a healthy inward posture (vv. 42, 44-46)

- They were new people (v.41), with a new devotion (v.42), and a new community (v.44).
- “When God saves us, personal devotion to His community is not an option.”
- Sanctification is a community project! God intended His people to look to one another for encouragement in the Gospel
- “We must constantly resist the "me" mentality in the body of Christ.”

II. We need to have a healthy upward posture (vv. 42-43, 46-47)

- This new community experienced God deeply.
- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (v.42).
- They also experienced awe and wonder at God's work in the world (v.43), which led to frequent worship and celebration in the temple (vv. 46-47).
- Churches should protect their posture toward God.

III. We need to have a healthy outward posture (v. 47)

- This new community not only moved toward God and each other well, they also moved toward the world.
- God saves people to send them out and engage non-Christians with the gospel. A great way to do this is to eat with non-Christians. This is how Jesus accomplished much of his mission.

For Discussion:

1. What is your attitude toward the church? Are church attendance, financial giving, small group activity, and other kinds of involvement important to you?
2. How can you be a blessing to your local congregation? Are your brothers and sisters in Christ a priority in your prayers and time?
3. What currently hinders your pursuit of God?
4. Do you have a burden for non-Christians? Who in your life does not believe the gospel? What will you do to share it with them?