

The Importance of Community Groups – Week 5 of HHBC 3D

September 14, 2014

I. Review:

- Church's Mission, Vision, and Values:
 - *Consistently participates in **weekend services***
 - *Consistently does life together with other Christians through **Community Groups***
 - *Consistently **serves** in and/or through one of the ministries of the church*
- Importance of Corporate Worship in Our Spiritual Renewal
 - *God's Call on His People to Return to Him*
 - *God Called on His People to Gather Together to Worship Corporately*
 - *God Called on His People to Pray and Repent within their Corporate Worship*
 - *God Showed Mercy to His People*

II. Community Group Exercise:

Left – Where have you seen “Responsibility and Obligation” at work in Community Group?

Right – Where have you seen “Humility” exhibited in Community Group?

Across – Where have you seen “Scriptural Foundation” exhibited in Community Group?

III. Discussion and Application – Community Group:

Focus on Romans and Paul's examination of humanity's need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the hope found in it. Paul communicates specific instructions on how Christians are to live and the responsibilities we bear in embracing this sacred calling.

Four Aspects of our Calling to Live Life Together in Christ-Centered Community

Romans 15:1-7

1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God

1. There is **RESPONSIBILITY** in Living in **Community** with One Another (v. 1):

Paul begins by communicating this responsibility to believers: “*We who are strong have an obligation...*”

Paul's heart in sharing this responsibility is not to shame those believers who are not as mature or make those who are more mature seem more important. Rather, he is reminding those believers of the care they are called to show.

2. There **MUST BE HUMILITY** in Living in **Community** with One Another (v. 2-3):

Not only is there responsibility in living in community to care for others, but we must also show humility in this. Paul says in verse 2, “*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.*” Furthermore, our example for our motivation and humility comes from Christ. Paul says this of Christ: He “*did not please himself, but as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.’*” Jesus is the example to follow of caring through humility, but the truth is that He has also placed His Spirit within us to lead us as we look to meet the needs and care for those in our community and in our world.

3. There is a **SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION** to Living in Community with One Another (v. 4):

The responsibility of our living in community with one another is that we are called to humbly care for one another. We find our instruction for this responsibility and call if our community has its foundation in Scripture. Paul reminds us in verse 4, “*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*”

4. There is **GLORY TO GOD** in Living in Community with One Another (v. 5-7)

Paul has described our responsibility in living in community, the humility that is need to fulfill that responsibility, and the need to be scripturally sound to accomplish this responsibility. Paul concludes with this prayer: *“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”* Believers should live in harmony within our Community Groups and with one another, that TOGETHER we may one with ONE VOICE glorify God! Let us love one another as Christ as loved us, for God’s glory!

IV. Small Group Discussion:

1. *What does our “Obligation and Responsibility” in Community Group look like in our lives? What specific examples have you observed in our Community Group?*
2. *How does Paul speak to our motivation in pleasing our neighbor? What should our motivation be when we care for the people in our community?*
3. *What message will our humility, or lack thereof, communicate as we care for people in the name of Christ?*
4. *What will ultimately happen to our Community Groups if they are not based upon God’s Word and the endurance, encouragement, and hope we find within Scripture?*
5. *How can we know that our Community Groups are founded on and are living our Scriptural mandates?*
6. *What is Paul praying for with respect to us living TOGETHER in community? What type of lifestyle is he calling all believers to?*