

Covenant Christian Community

Antioch Meeting 8th October 2023



Christian
Community

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The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.⁴³ And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.⁴⁴ And all that believed were together and had all things common;⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2: 42-47, KJV

Community as Renewed Relationships

- A new relationship with God as his children
 - For in Christ Jesus, you are sons of God through faith...there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female.” Galatians 3:26-28
 - The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” Romans 8:15
- A new relationship with each other as brethren
 - “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.” 1 John 3:14
 - Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:15-16

Hesed: Fidelity and tenderness

Koinonia Community – Life in Common

- “Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common... There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need”. Acts 4: 32-35
- **Our spiritual lives**
 - “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2Cor 13:14
- **And...all our lives**
 - “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” Proverbs 27:17

Sharing from Rebecca



Modern men (and women) listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

Pope Paul VI –
Evangelii Nuntiandi
(Evangelization of the
Modern World), 1975

Community as The Body of Christ

- **A Corporate Identity**

- "Just as the [human] body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12)

- **A Redeemed People**

- You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light [1 Peter 2:9]
- "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" [Matt 18:20].

- **Depending on Each Other**

- **The eye cannot say** to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head **cannot say** to the feet, "I don't need you!" [1 Cor 12:21-22]

Summary

- **Christian community is Christians who have a brotherly love and commitment to one another, who share their lives, and who live interdependently as members of a body.**
 - hesed,
 - koinonia and,
 - the Body of Christ

Finkenwalde – This must be stronger than that



“We are training for another kingdom, and **this must be stronger than that.**”

Concluding Thoughts – Choosing Again

- “I want to give my life fully to God and live my life as a member of the Antioch community and the Sword of the Spirit.”

For prayer and reflection

1. What have been your most broken moments in community life ? How did those moments affect you ? Ask Christ to come in, to bring healing and forgiveness.
2. What have been your most beautiful, joyful, formative moments in Christian community. How did those moments shape you ? Pause and give thanks.
3. Spend some time praying for Antioch, for protection on our mission and call, and on our relationships. That the Lord would watch over “this fragile vine that He has planted”.
4. Ask the Lord to show you your role and place in the body of Christ and Antioch in particular.