

ALL THINGS IN COMMON!!!
“COMMUNITY”
ACTS 4:32 NKJV
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INTRODUCTION

- Biblical perspective - Community is essential to the Christian faith, representing a shared life in Christ characterized by mutual love, support, and encouragement.
- This Community that God encourages us to be a part of has some core principles that are intended to influence our faith and our growth.

I. THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

God's intent for our coming together, to have all things in common, was to create among us:

- Association - Fellowship (Koinonia) - Acts 2:42
Emphasizes the deep, shared life believers experience.
- Advocacy - Mutual Encouragement and Support – John 16:33; Philippians 2:4 and Galatians 6:2
- Accountability – Growth - Hebrews 10:24 and James 5:16 –
A space for believers to challenge and encourage each other to grow in their faith.
- Assortment - Unity in Diversity - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 - A body with many members, each with unique gifts, but all working together for the common good.
- Affection - Love and Compassion - John 13:35 and 1 Peter 1:22 - Christians are called to love one another as Christ loves them, demonstrating compassion, kindness, and humility.

II. THE COMMANDED PARTICIPATION IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY - HEBREW 10:25 NLT

- In the body of Christ, we connect with others who are pursuing the same overarching goal, to advance God's Kingdom on earth.

- We are to complement each other rather than compete. We are to love rather than resent.
- Our participation in biblical community is intended to help us in our:
 - Maturing - Spiritual Growth - Ephesians 4:11-13
 - Mastering - Overcoming Challenges - Romans 15:1-2 and Galatians 6:1
 - Modeling - Reflecting God's Love - Ephesians 5:1-2
 - Mentoring - Fulfilling God's Purpose - Colossians 3:12-18
 - Maintaining - Combatting Individualism - 1 Peter 5:6-7 and John 15:5

III. THE CRITICAL PROBLEM OF BIBLICAL COMMUNITY - 2 CORINTHIANS 2:1-11 NLT

A. The Critical Problem is Church Hurt:

- “Church Hurt is defined as the pain inflicted by religious institutions, their members, and/or their leadership — a pain that distances sufferers from their communities and sometimes from God. It's a scheme of the enemy designed to divide and destroy the church when not handled according to Scripture and addressed in love.”
Jerome Gay Jr. in his book entitled “Church Hurt.”
- Church Hurt is like a spiritual autoimmune disease, in the body of Christ, attacking itself.

B. Church Hurt, according to Paul, is to be dealt with by:

- Compassion and Concern - vs. 1-4
Motive is love!!!
- Clarity and Comprehension - vs. 5-6 & 9
Understand the cause of the hurt!
- Clemency and Contrition - vs. 7-8, 10-11
Be Ready to Forgive!!!