

Discovering CTK **Community**

Nathan Carter
10/12/14

The gospel creates community. Because it points us to the One who died for his enemies, it creates relationships of service rather than selfishness. Because it removes both fear and pride, people get along inside the church who could never get along outside. Because it calls us to holiness, the people of God live in loving bonds of mutual accountability and discipline. Thus the gospel creates a human community radically different from any society around it.

Center Church, p.311

Romans 12

- Verses 1-2
Being transformed into something new and better
- Verses 3-8
Our individual gifts are to share among the church
- Verses 9-16
What kind of community the church ought to be
- Verses 17-21
Sharing the radical forgiveness God has given us

Forgiving One Another

- And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
(Matthew 6:12)
- For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15)
- Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. *Forgive, and you will be forgiven.* (Luke 6:37)
- Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. *Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* (Colossians 3:13)
- Others: Matthew 18:34-35, Mark 11:25, etc.

The gospel creates community. Because it points us to the One who died for his enemies, it creates relationships of service rather than selfishness. Because it removes both fear and pride, people get along inside the church who could never get along outside. Because it calls us to holiness, the people of God live in loving bonds of mutual accountability and discipline. Thus the gospel creates a human community radically different from any society around it.

Center Church, p.311

Romans 12 at CTK

- The Deacons' Fund - one way we bear one another's burdens
- Children's Ministry - serving the parents in the church
- Hospitality - serving those who are not near family
- Community Groups - sharing life together many ways
- Corporate Prayer - Tuesday mornings, here

What other verses come to
mind on the topic of
living together as believers?

In what ways has
the community of believers
had a significant impact
on your life in the past?

Community

- During the “high priestly prayer”: [John 17:11](#)
- A spiritual house: [1 Peter 2:4-5](#)
- Unity in diversity: [1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26](#)
(Also see [Ephesians 3:6](#).)

Challenges to Unity

Stage-of-life diversity

- Young single people (lots)
- Young married people (some)
- Young-ish parents (lots)
- Not as young (some)

Temptations

- Feeling maxed-out with our own concerns
- Being consumer-oriented, both at church and in relationships in general

Community Groups

- Reading and discussing the Word together
- Applying Scripture to our lives
- Sharing prayer requests and praying together
- Opening our homes to one another
- Serving others as a church family
- Providing a safe place for unbelieving visitors

Studying the Word at CTK

Sermons in the Worship Service

Ordained pastor delivering God's word to the people

Adult Sunday School

Lectures with some discussion

Community Group Discussion

Discussion, sharing, application

Challenge to Community

In a city center, building community is the most challenging of the four ministry fronts, largely because of the mobility of the population. City centers are very expensive and difficult places to live. Most people are working enormous hours, and most people see themselves as living there only temporarily. All of this makes it difficult to build community.

Center Church, p.314