

Sacred Roots: Authentic Community & Fellowship (Week 2)

Unearthing Who We Are, Planting Who We Will Be

Rev. Michael Eley, Jr., M.Div. | July 5, 2023

I. Introduction

“A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It’s about feeling connected and responsible for what happens.”

- Icebreaker: Share a personal experience of a time you felt a sense of community and fellowship.
-
-
-

Creating Spaces Where People *feel* they Belong!

II. Understanding Authentic Community and Fellowship

Quick Facts on the Book of Acts

- Also called the Acts of the Apostles (Jesus’ 12 Disciples)
- It is believed that the books of Luke and Acts are a unified literary work in two parts
- Believed Author(s) Luke and Irenaeus
 - Irenaeus was a Greek bishop noted for his role in guiding and expanding Christian communities in the southern regions of present-day France and, more widely, for the development of Christian theology
 - Asserted the validity of the Hebrew Bible
- Offers a narrative sequel to the accounts of Jesus’ words and deeds found in the Gospels.

Key Themes of the Book of Acts

- The Holy Spirit
- The Early Church’s Growth
- The Spread of the Gospel

A. Definition and Importance

- Read Acts 2:42-47

- 1) Elements in this passage define authentic community and fellowship
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

d)

(v.42) The **Spiritual** must be partnered with the **Natural**. Authentic community understands how to embrace both.

2. Can you see moments in your faith walk where you have focused more primarily in one area than the other (spiritual v. natural) How did you move into balance?

B. Characteristics of Authentic Community

- Read Romans 12:9-16

1. Characteristics in the passage of an authentic community? (Dual Roles)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

HARMONY v. UNISON

In what ways can we celebrate and value the diversity of gifts and talents within our community?

C. Living in Unity

- Read Psalm 133:1

1. Why do you think unity is compared to precious oil and dew in this verse?

Unity, compared to precious oil and dew in Psalm 133:1, signifies its high value and benefits.

Oil, it brings harmony, blessings, and nourishment.

Dew symbolizes refreshment and renewal, highlighting unity's life-giving qualities.

Overall, unity is highly valuable, fostering growth, prosperity, and pleasantness when people come together.

2. What are individual and community-wide action can we engage in to promote unity?

Conclusion & Notes:
