

Making Room for Life

“The Reality: Practical Steps to Making Room for Life”

Acts 2:42-47

Summary Statement

This sermon will focus our attention on connecting our lives with God, one another, and with our neighborhood by reflecting on the four key principles of authentic community as shown by the first New Testament church. We will examine several practical steps as to how we can get connected to God and one another in order to experience community.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) – ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Four Principles of Authentic Community

The four principles of authentic community are derived from our observation of key principles and the results of those principles that were implemented by the first Christian church in New Testament times.

Principle #1 – Devotion to Understanding the Word

- **Key Result – Inspiration** - Everyone was filled with awe.
- **Key Activity – Experience the Word** in a LIFE Group
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.
- **Key Point** – The key point presented in this principle is that we can not experience authentic Biblical community apart from God. We must study and understand His Word to be inspired by Him in transformational ways. We are reminded from Scripture that true sustaining growth in the Word comes through being taught the Word within LIFE groups.

Principle #2 – Devotion to Fellowship

Principle #3 – Devotion to the Breaking of Bread

- **Galatians 6:2** – Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- **Key Result #1 – Unconditional Support** – No one had a need

- **1 Corinthians 12:25** – ... There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.
- **Key Result #2 – Unification** – Had everything in Common
- **Key Activity – Get Connected** in a LIFE Group
- **Key Point** – The key point presented here comes from the combination of the principles of fellowship and that of breaking bread together. It is during these two experiences that we experience the unconditional support and unity that can only be found in authentic community. It is important that we understand that in order to experience these two principles then we must get intimately connected with a LIFE group verses being actively connected at the corporate level of the church.

Principle #4 – Devotion to Prayer

- **Key Result – Experience God** – Praise the Lord
- **Ephesians 3:17b-19** – ... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- **Key Activity – Experience Community** in a LIFE Group
- **Key Point** – The key point presented here comes to us as we learn the intimacy and power of prayer within a community of believers. It is only through cultivating community with God that we can truly experience Him and prayer is an essential element in that process.

Questions to Consider

1. *How has this sermon series, **Making Room for Life**, challenged me?*
2. *What changes has God placed upon your heart to make in your life?*
3. *Are you experiencing authentic community? If not, what will you do about it?*

Application

- Our challenge throughout this series has been for you to experience authentic Biblical Community with God, One Another, and your Neighborhood. We encourage you to experience that type of community beginning this week. Sign up for a Home Fellowship or a Community Gathering in the foyer and devote yourself to experience at least one month of community.

Memory Verse:

John 10:9 – I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture



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