

TOGETHER

Message #3 "The Power of Belonging"

Scripture Acts 2:42-47

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September 26 & 27, 2020

*"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."* Acts 2:42-47

1. **Apostle's Teachings**= The Word of God. *Hebrews 4:12*

"We believe that the Bible is God's Word-inspired-without error-and authoritative for the life of the believer and the body."

2. **The Fellowship**= The body of believers.

3. **Prayer**= Inviting the hand of God to move.

"It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'" Matt 21:12-13 JESUS

4. **The Breaking of Bread**= Gathering for the purpose of celebrating.

It is amazing what God did when The Church was "TOGETHER"

- a. Reveals purpose and plan - Acts 1:14
- b. Provides courage and support - Acts 1:14
- c. Pours out His power - Acts 2:1
- d. Pours out fresh power/courage/and anointing - Acts 4:24
- e. Pours out miracles and healing - Acts 5:12-16
- f. Reports and testifies what God was doing - Acts 14:27
- g. Holy Spirit sets apart and calls out to ministry - Acts 13:1-3

The Power of Coming Together as the Family of God

1. Brings **glory & honor** to God.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
Matt 18:19-20 JESUS

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. 2 Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy."
Ps 33:1-3

See also Ps 95:1-7, Ps 29:1-2

2. **Encourages** & **challenges** each other in our spiritual walk.

*"...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds**. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us **encourage one another** — and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* Heb 10:19-25

The difference between **spur** and **encourage** is that one is from **behind** and one is from **alongside of and in front**. Where we are spiritually, will determine which is necessary.

3. **Restores** when we **slip and fall**.

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load." Gal 6:1-5

4. Offers hope through **our hurts & healings**.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." 2 Cor 1:3-5

*In the Body of Christ you don't have the right
to **HORDE YOUR HURTS***

5. We have a sense **of belonging**.

"We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13 As a fair exchange — I speak as to my children — open wide your hearts also." 2 Cor 6:11-13

QUESTIONS

We are living in an unusual time of separation. How has the distancing due to CoVid impacted you?

How are you meeting the needs you have for fellowship with others?

Sometimes we distance from other believers as a result of hurts, frustrations, etc. Just between you and the Lord, have you experienced times like that?

Community doesn't have to mean 500 people. It may mean 2-3, what believers are you regularly investing in? What believers are regularly investing in you?

It is natural for many to want to do faith alone but that isn't the Biblical model. What are some areas that you sense the Lord is challenging/encouraging you to engage?

What are some steps you can take this week to make that happen?

SERVICE TIMES

- ***Saturday Evening @ 6:00 PM*** - Saturday Venue
 - ***Sunday Morning 8:00 AM*** - Heritage Service
 - ***Sunday Morning 9:40 AM*** - CW Family Service – Children, Youth and Adult Classes
 - ***Sunday Morning 11:10 AM*** - CW Family Service – Family Connection
 - ***Sunday Evening 6:00 PM*** - Traditional Service (Hymns and choruses geared toward our seniors and other vulnerable individuals who might need a smaller setting)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

For all our upcoming online and in-person events, go to our website: www.cwmc.church/event