

Community

Week 3

Community

- Recap on previous weeks:
 - Week 1 – the Challenges:
 - Individualism, isolation, consumerism
 - Week 2 – the Solutions
 - Common purpose, common place, common possessions

Community and Communication

- This week – a basic requirement [Good] **Communication**
- Love God and Love others
- Talked a lot about our relationship with God over recent months
- Community helps us focus on our relationships with each other
- **Communication** underpins all our relationships:
both God and Man

Community and Communication

I want to look at some of the ways Communication can:

1. Enhance and support our desire for community
2. Undermine and destroy community
3. Suggest a few practical ways to help our communications

Community and Communication

What is Communication?

‘The imparting or exchanging of information by speaking, writing, or using some other medium’

But it’s more than that, it’s also...

‘The successful conveying of ideas and feelings’

Community and Communication

Quotes:

‘Communication leads to community; that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing’

Rollo May (American Psychologist)

Words are singularly the most powerful source available to humanity; we can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively using words of despair’

(Yehuda Berg Senior American Rabbi)

Community and Communication

Bible verses:

‘Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt’
(Col. 4:6)

‘Let no corrupt talk come out of your mouths’
(Eph. 4:29)

‘A **good** person brings **good** things through the **good** things stored in their heart and the **evil** person brings **evil** through the **evil** stored in their heart, **for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**’
(Luke. 6:45)

‘Faithful are the words of a friend’
(Prov. 27:5)

Community and Communication

Communication within the Church community

- We need to be in relationship with each other
- Requires good communication
- It is hard for all of us all (men and women)
- It is not just the spoken word

The benefit of 'positive' communication:

Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless
(Mother Teresa)

- Building up the church:
- Strengthen, encourage and comfort
- Good communication doesn't just happen
- We need our fellowship to go deeper
- Home groups are a great place to start
- Remember and welcome newcomers

The impact of 'poor' communication:

'No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison'
(James 3:8)

- The power of the tongue
- Sticks and stones....
- Out of our hearts our mouths speak
- Guarding our words
- Telling it as it is!
- Revealing our true heart
- Being prepared to speak up when needed

Practical suggestions that may help us:

It's not just stopping the bad, it's desiring the good

- God works in the heart, we need to be open to Him
- Be quick to apologise and to forgive
- Put an emphasis on encouragement and building others up
- Take time to communicate carefully
- Reflect on what you say and what the reaction might be
- Stay accountable and seek feedback

Final thoughts:

We all get it wrong, but God is more than able and will help us if we ask!

- We were made for community
- There are great benefits of being close to one another in love, but it takes time and effort
- Let's strive to be the best we can be, and with God's help and the help of others, draw closer to God and to each other in love
- Let us pray