



Sermon Guide: Community and Love | Samuel Voo | September 24, 2023

The focus of this week's message, the second of 'Three Life Lessons,' is community. Sam taught from three passages in the Bible and shared some of his recent experiences of community as he encouraged us all to continue to persevere in community and to remember the gift that community is for us.

Sam began with Acts 2, where the biblical author described an ideal community of believers devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. This simple formula formed the key elements of the early church's meetings together.

Moving on to John 13, we witnessed Jesus humbling himself to wash his disciples' feet, showcasing the role of sacrificial love in fostering community. Love, as exemplified by Jesus, is the bedrock of every Christian fellowship. We, too, are called to acts of love for each other. More often than not, this takes the form of small, daily and weekly rhythms of sacrifice and commitment where we consider others' needs as important as our own.

Lastly, in Matthew 19:29, Jesus promised community and blessing (in this life) for those who gave up other things and relationships in order to follow him. In the end, community is not an obligation but a blessing that enriches our lives, multiplying the gift of relationship through brothers and sisters in Christ.

In conclusion, community is not something we have to do; it is something we get to do. It is a promise and a gift from God. As we move forward as a church, let's be intentional about building a culture of community at Granville, ensuring that every member has the opportunity for fellowship, love, and the joy of sharing life together.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the four elements that the disciples devoted themselves to in Acts 2:42?
2. What does the act of Jesus washing his disciples' feet demonstrate?
3. How does the concept of 'sharing' contribute to the formation of a Christian community?

Application Questions:

1. How can you demonstrate sacrificial love in your community this week?
2. Can you think of a small, weekly sacrifice you can make to strengthen your community?
3. How can you incorporate the four elements from Acts 2:42 (apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers) into your weekly rhythm?