



Sunday August 12, 2018 commUNITY

Community, definition, would generally be something like this: a people who are considered a unit because of common interests.

So lets thing about our church as a community.

We know that believers relate to our church community in different ways:

1, FORMAL RELATIONSHIP : There are those who attend on Sundays, they enjoy the worship, prayer and Word, and also give financially. But do not engage with people. They leave right after service. They do consider APC as their home church, but their engagement with the community is very little.

2, FRIENDS : There are those who go a little beyond a formal relationship with the church community, and have friends here. They might stay back after church, meet with people, have conversation and move on. They may not necessarily connect with the church community the rest of the week.

3, FAMILY : and then there are those who see the church community as a family. There is a sense of belonging. There is commitment. They serve in the church community. This is their home. They are sons and daughters, fathers and mothers in the family.

There are three things we will consider today, that should describe us as a community:
UNITY, FELLOWSHIP, POWER

THE FIRST DESCRIPTOR OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY : UNITY

Unity means we are together, we are aligned, and in agreement in faith and purpose.

We see the church in Jerusalem being a church in "one accord"

The Greek for "one accord" "homothumadon" means to **be of one mind, one passion**, or as we say something done "unanimously".

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

Acts 4:24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

Acts 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

Paul writing to the Corinthian church, where there was a lot of strife, divisions, problems (people were taking sides, 'I am of Paul', 'I am of Appollos', 'I am of Peter', etc.), he pleads:



1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

So we must guard against what destroys unity:

Ephesians 4:1-3

**1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Romans 16:17-18

**17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.
18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.**

Here are some things that sow disunity among God's people:

Gossip, slander, evil-speaking, rebellion, dishonor, self-seeking, selfish interests

THE SECOND DESCRIPTOR OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY : FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship, Greek 'koinonia' is sharing, having things in common, involves partnership

Look at the example of the early Christians.

Yes, some things we done because many of them were far away from home and did not have a place of their own when they came to celebrate the feasts in Jerusalem.

Acts 2:42-47

**42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

Acts 4:32

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common (*Greek 'koinos'*).

Here are some ways we can build fellowship at APC:



#1, Life Groups

#2, Serving at church - volunteer teams are a great way to connect with people and build strong fellowships

#3, Caring for one another

Our fellowship must result in spiritual growth - otherwise we become no different from a social group.

Hence our fellowship must include encouraging each other through prayer, worship, God's Word, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Philemon 1:6

that the sharing ('koinonia' = fellowship) of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

THE THIRD DESCRIPTOR OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY : POWER

We are to be a community that displays God's power at work.

This is what differentiates us from all other social groups and clubs that do good, and are good to each other.

There should be evidence of God in our midst and God at work in our midst.

Consider the church community at Jerusalem:

Acts 4:32-33

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Acts 5:12-16

12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly.

14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

This same continued with all the new churches planted around Asia: Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth, etc.

All these church communities were communities that experienced the power of God at work amongst them.

God has not changed His plans.

The church of today has to display God's power just as and even more than the Early Church.

We will see God's power at work at APC.



Let's build a strong church community.

Let these three descriptors be seen clearly amongst us as a church community: UNITY,
FELLOWSHIP, POWER

Let's do this together.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday August 12, 2018
CommUNITY (Family Funday)

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:1-3, Romans 16:17-18; Acts 5:12-16*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights (It is alright if you cannot cover all the questions. Select a few of these questions for your discussion). We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

We pointed to three descriptors that we'd like to see developed at APC as a church community: Unity, Fellowship and Power.

Discuss practically how we as a community can build and develop in these three areas.

Assign one person to make a note of key ideas that emerge through your discussion.

After your Life Group meeting, please send an email, sharing your ideas to:

feedback@apcwo.org

This will help us take practical steps to make APC a better church community!



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.