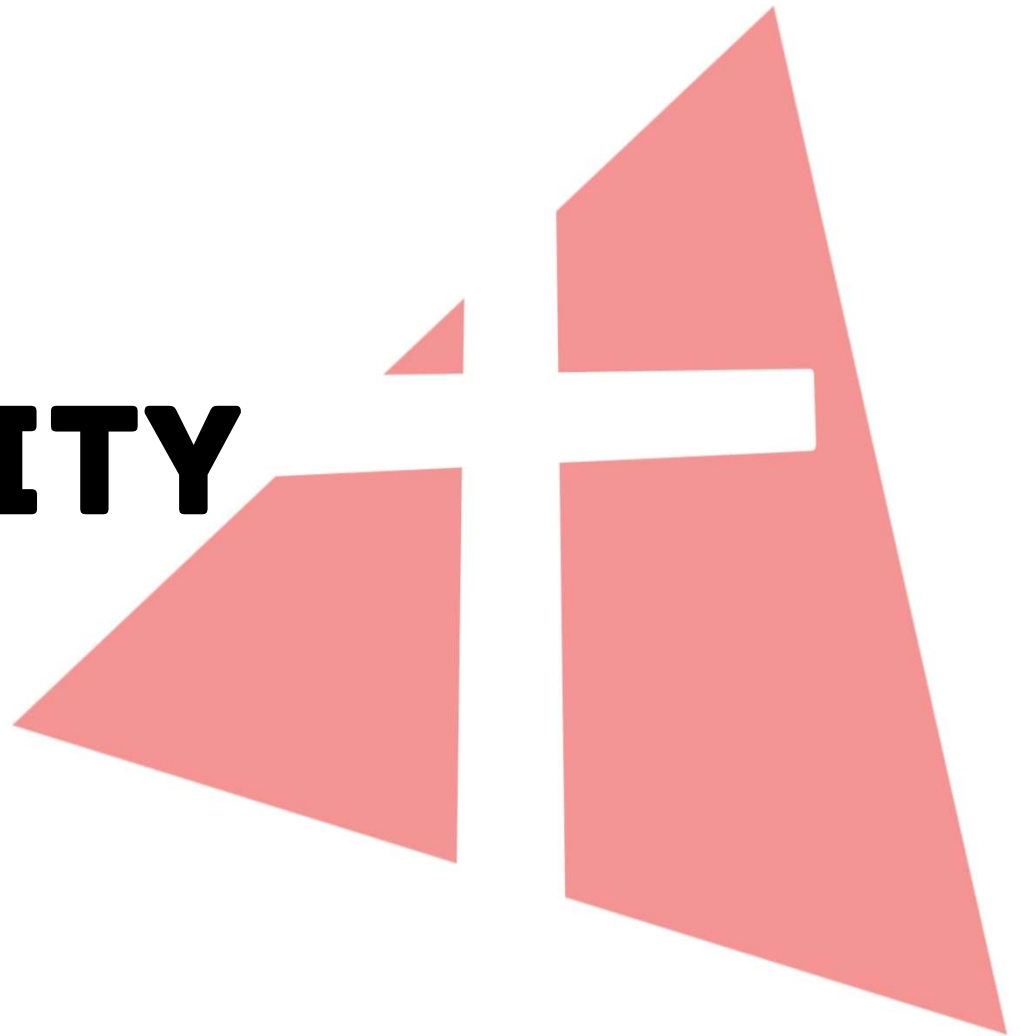


COMMUNITY

July 02nd 2017

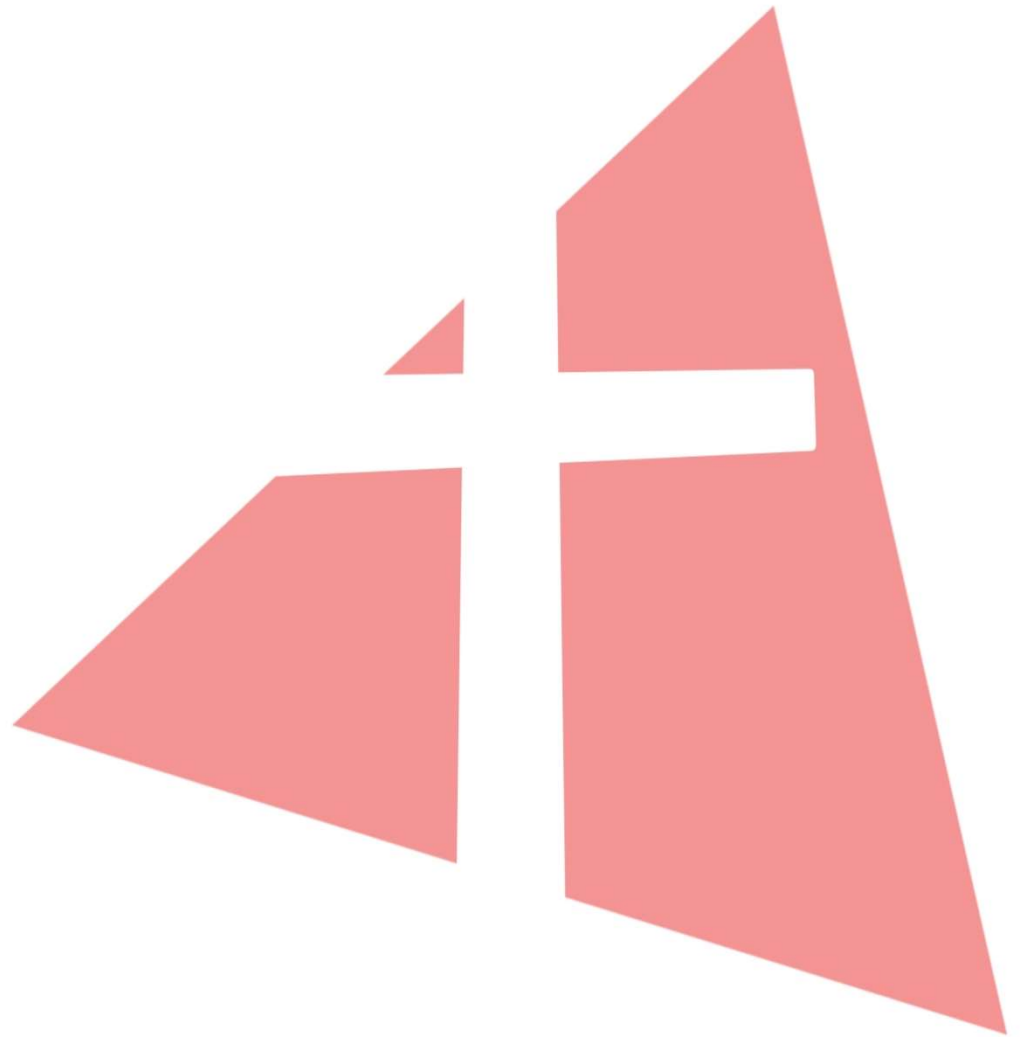


“THE YEAR BETWEEN”

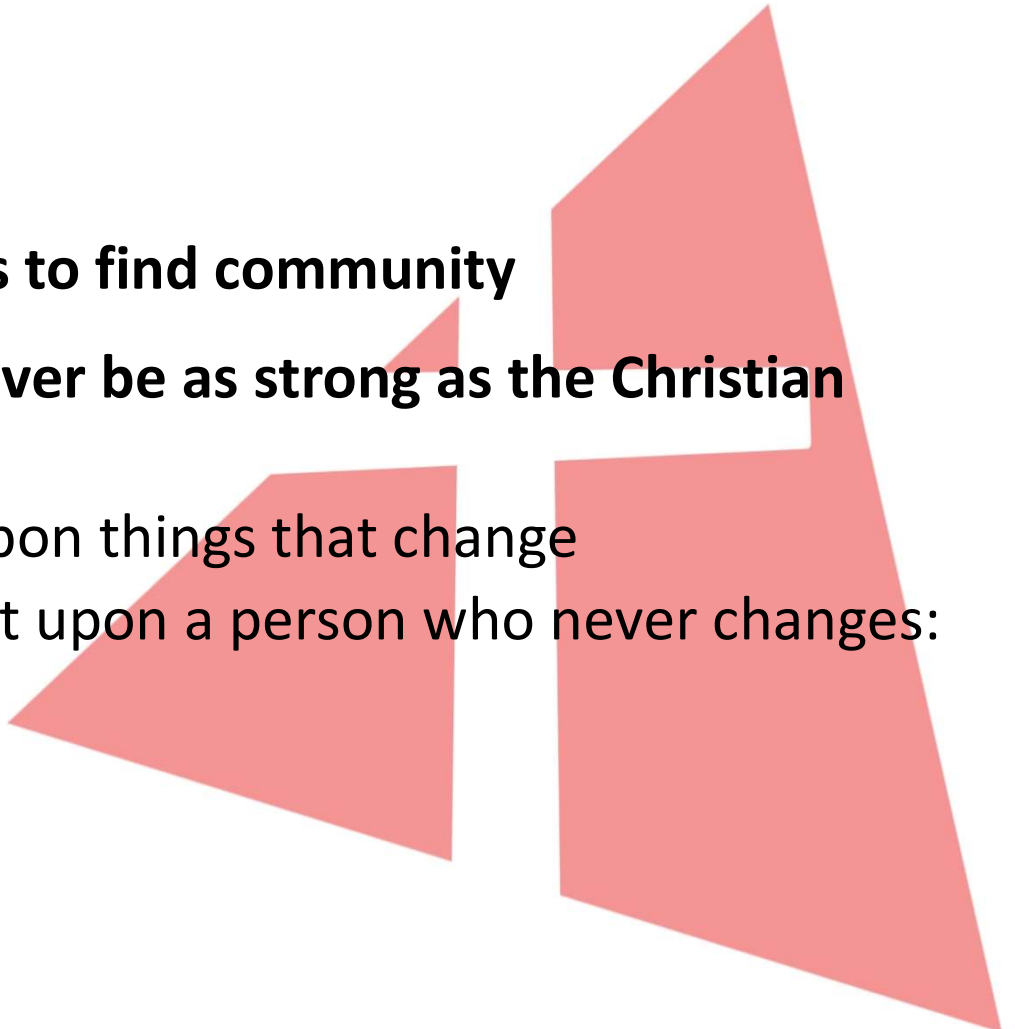
- **SCF Community (2004 – June 2016)**
 - **Our year of waiting (July 2016 – now)**
 - **Without close community, our faith slowly but steadily dies**
- 

TOPIC TODAY

- **The Bible on Community**

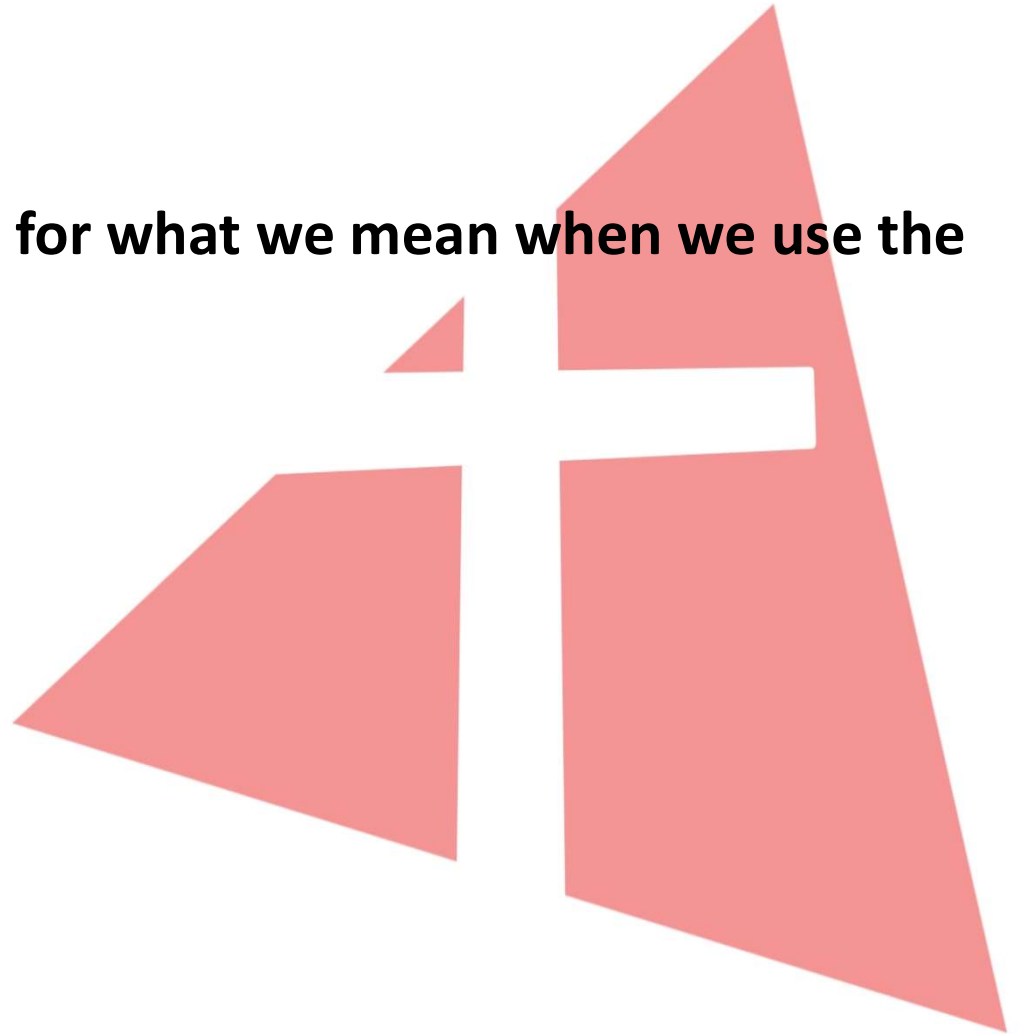


JUST TO BE CLEAR

- **There are many different ways to find community**
 - **But other communities can never be as strong as the Christian community**
 - Other community is built upon things that change
 - Christian Community is built upon a person who never changes: Jesus Christ
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent red geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, located on the right side of the slide.

THE BIBLE ON COMMUNITY

- **The Bible uses different terms for what we mean when we use the term “community”**
 - Love
 - Unity
 - “one another”
 - Fellowship



JESUS ON COMMUNITY

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet; you also ought to wash one another's feet. (John 13:14)

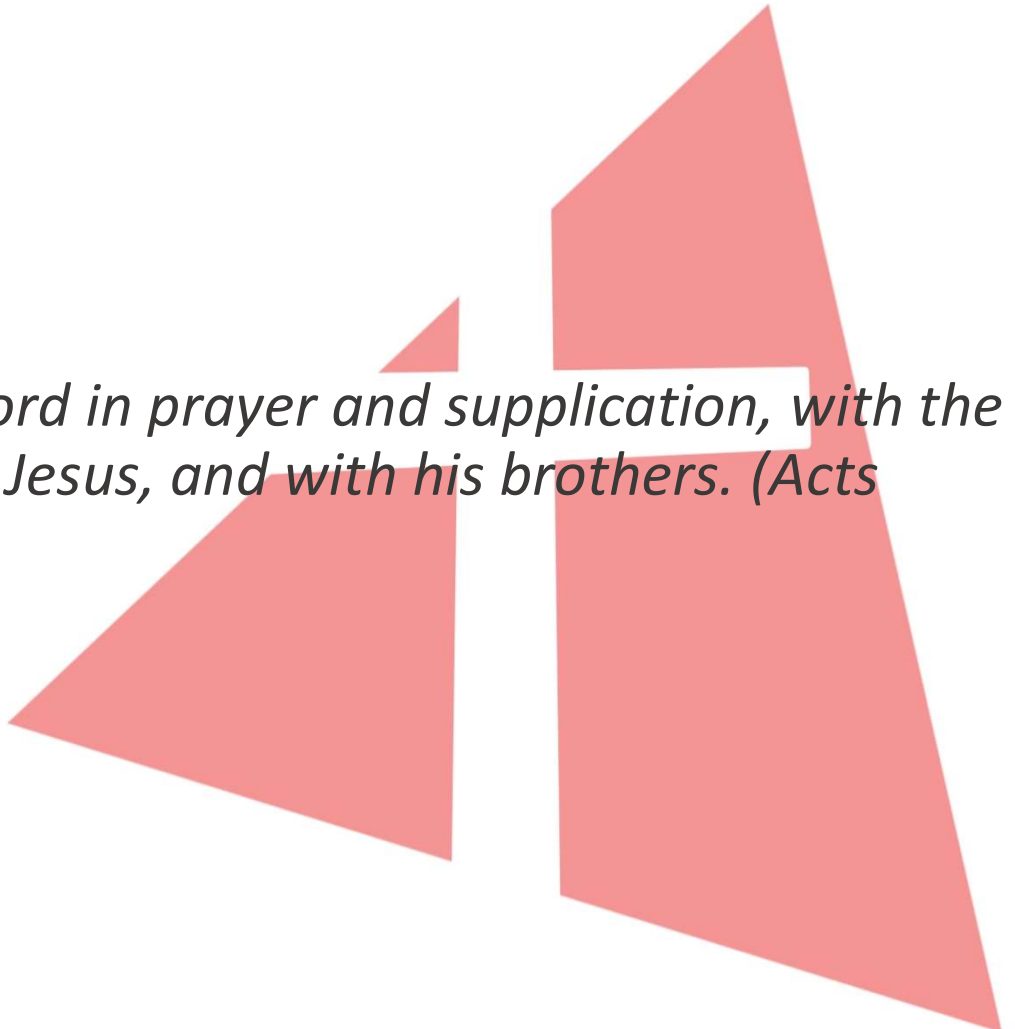
A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another. (John 13:34-35)

JESUS ON COMMUNITY

This is my commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you. From now on I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:12-17)

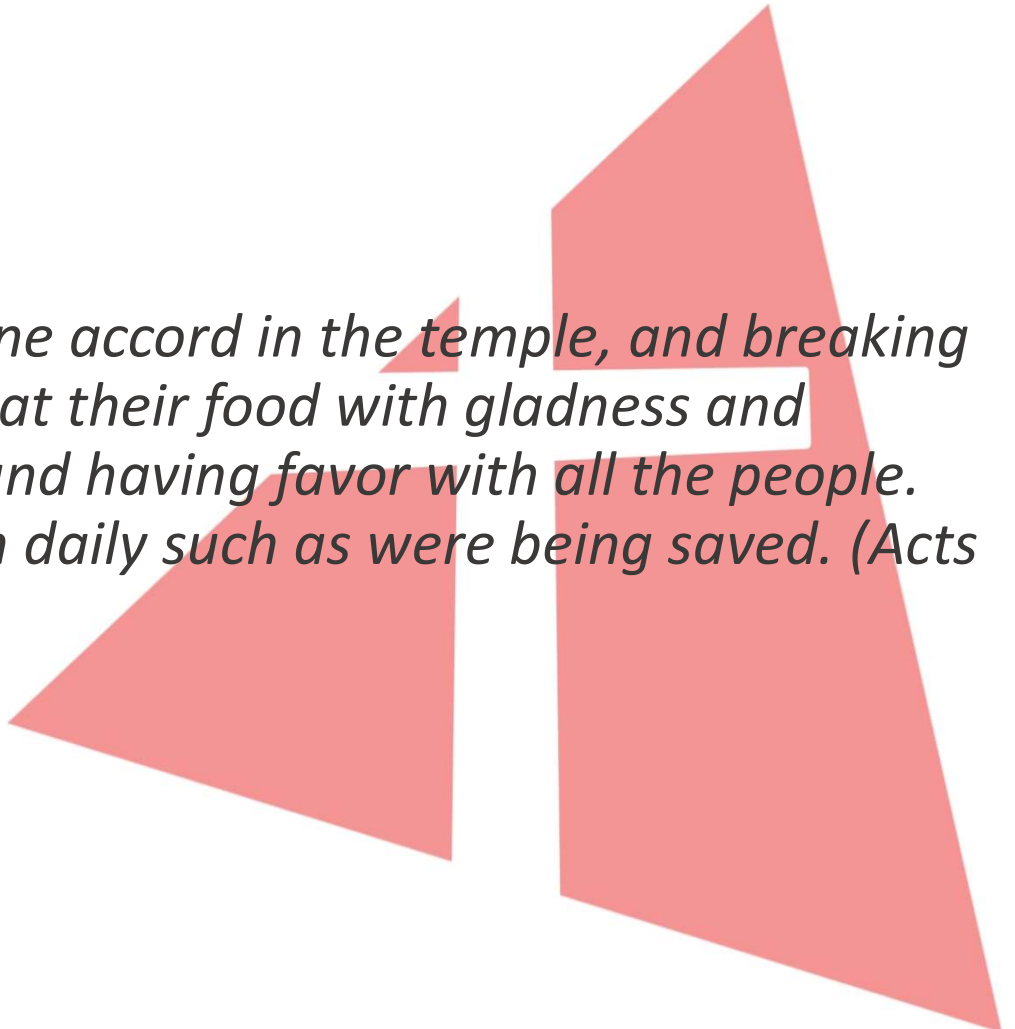
BOOK OF ACTS

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

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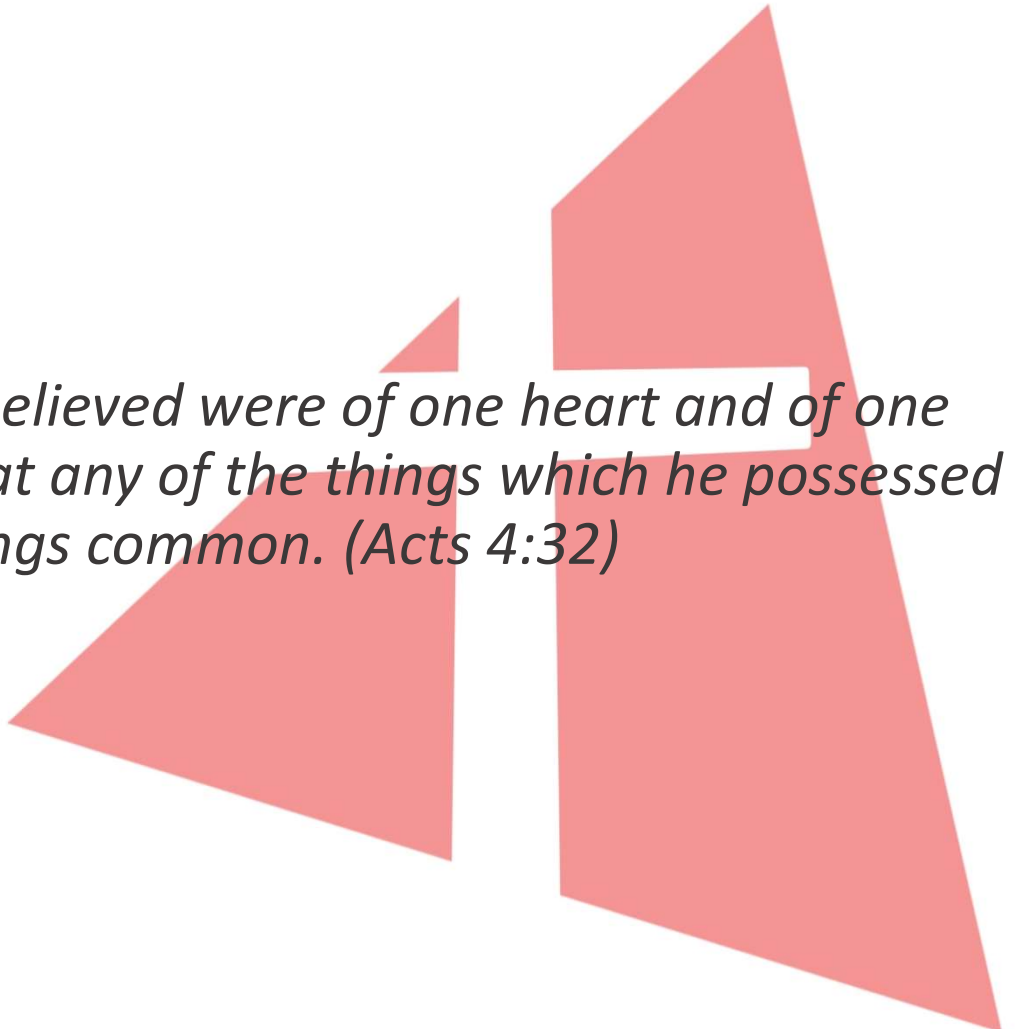
BOOK OF ACTS

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness and sincerity of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)

The image features several overlapping, semi-transparent red geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, located in the lower right quadrant of the page. These shapes are layered, with some appearing behind others, creating a modern, abstract design element.

BOOK OF ACTS

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that any of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (Acts 4:32)

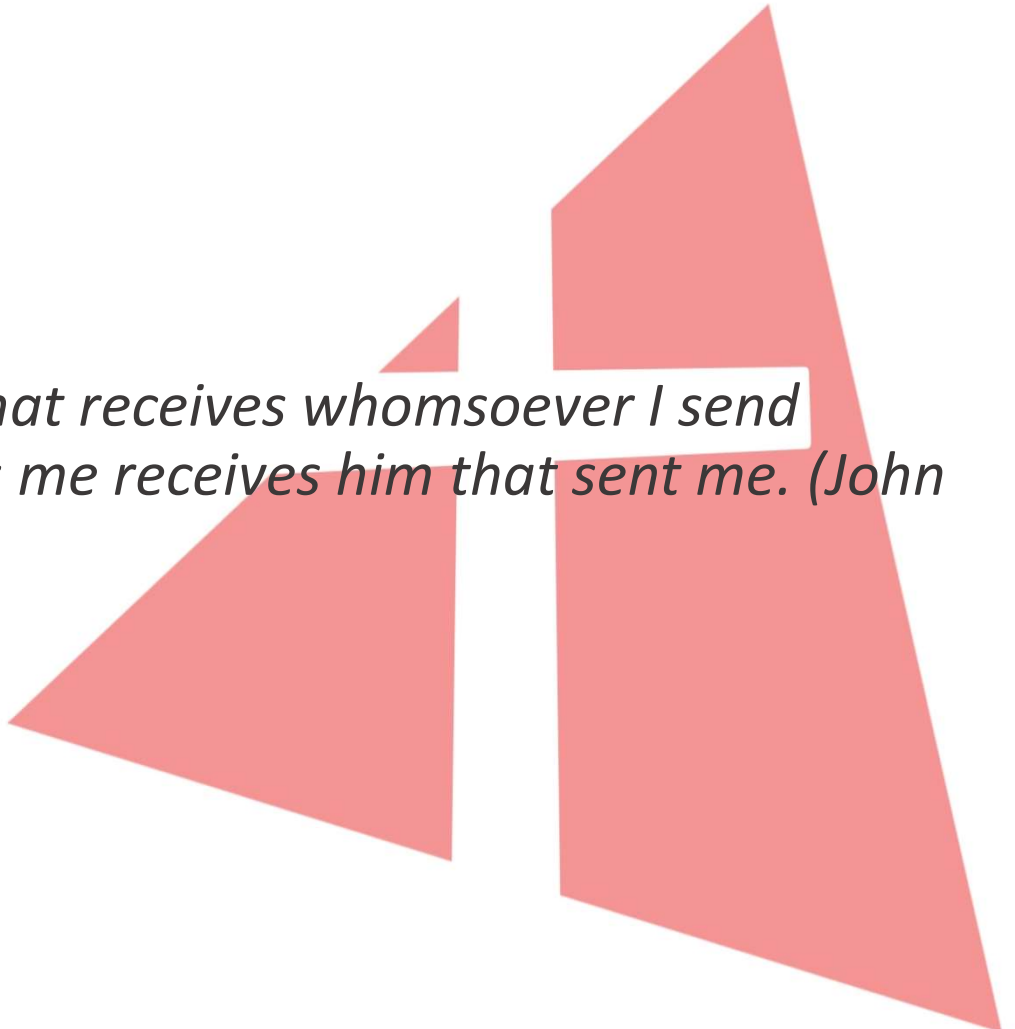
The background features several overlapping, semi-transparent red geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, positioned on the right side of the slide.

HEAVEN

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and tribes, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. (Revelation 7:9-10)

COMMUNITY: EVIDENCE OF FAITH

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receives whomsoever I send receives me; and he that receives me receives him that sent me. (John 13:20)

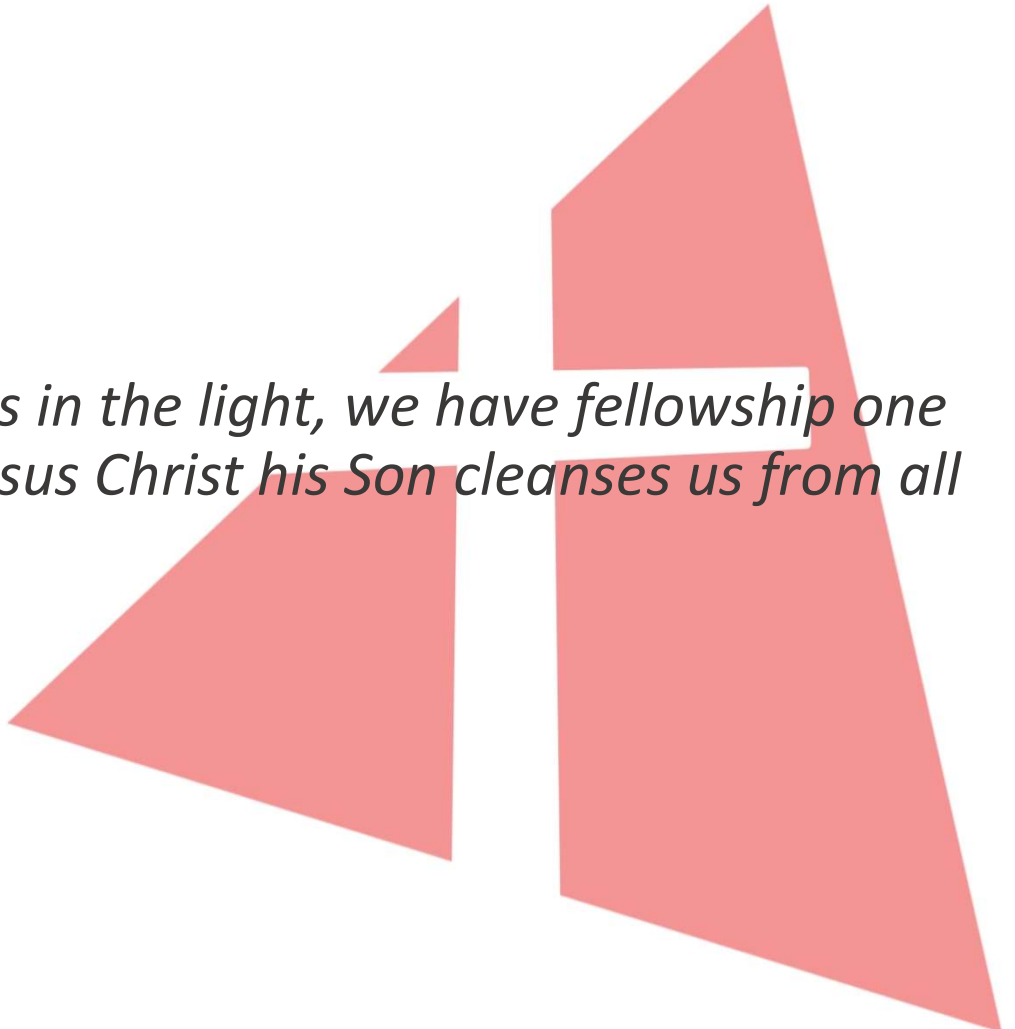
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THE FLIPSIDE OF THE SAME COIN


And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. (Hebrews 10:24-27)

THE FLIPSIDE OF THE SAME COIN

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

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THE BIBLE'S TEACHING IN A NUTSHELL

- Living in Community strengthens our Faith
 - Living in Community draws others into the community
 - Living in Community is a foretaste of heaven
- 

THE BIBLE'S TEACHING IN A NUTSHELL

- Living in community is evidence of Faith



MEANING OF COMMUNITY

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

- κοινωνία koinonia *koy-nohn-ee'-ah* from 2844; partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:—(to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-)distribution, fellowship.

MEANING OF COMMUNITY

- **Purpose of Community: Partnership in bringing Glory to God**

WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

- **Sharing life**

- Praising God together

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

○ Sharing life

- Supporting each other in time of need

But to do good and to share forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Hebrews 13:16)



WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

- **Sharing life**

- Learning together/Teaching one another

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

- **Sharing life**

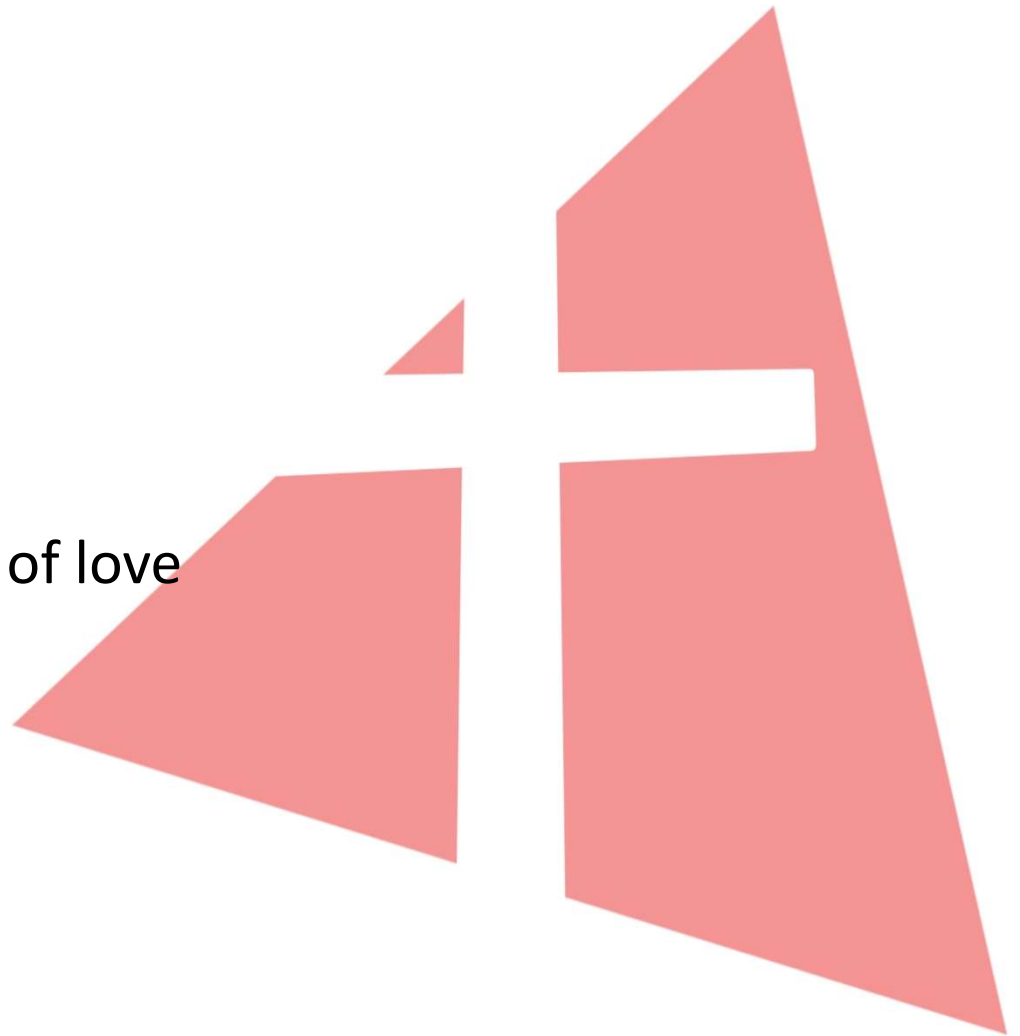
- Correcting one another

Moreover if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone: if he shall hear you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as a heathen man and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)

WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

- **Sharing life**

- Correcting one another
- Correction is an expression of love



WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

○ Sharing life

- Working together

For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased him. And if they were all one member, where would be the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-20)

WHAT DO WE DO IN COMMUNITY?

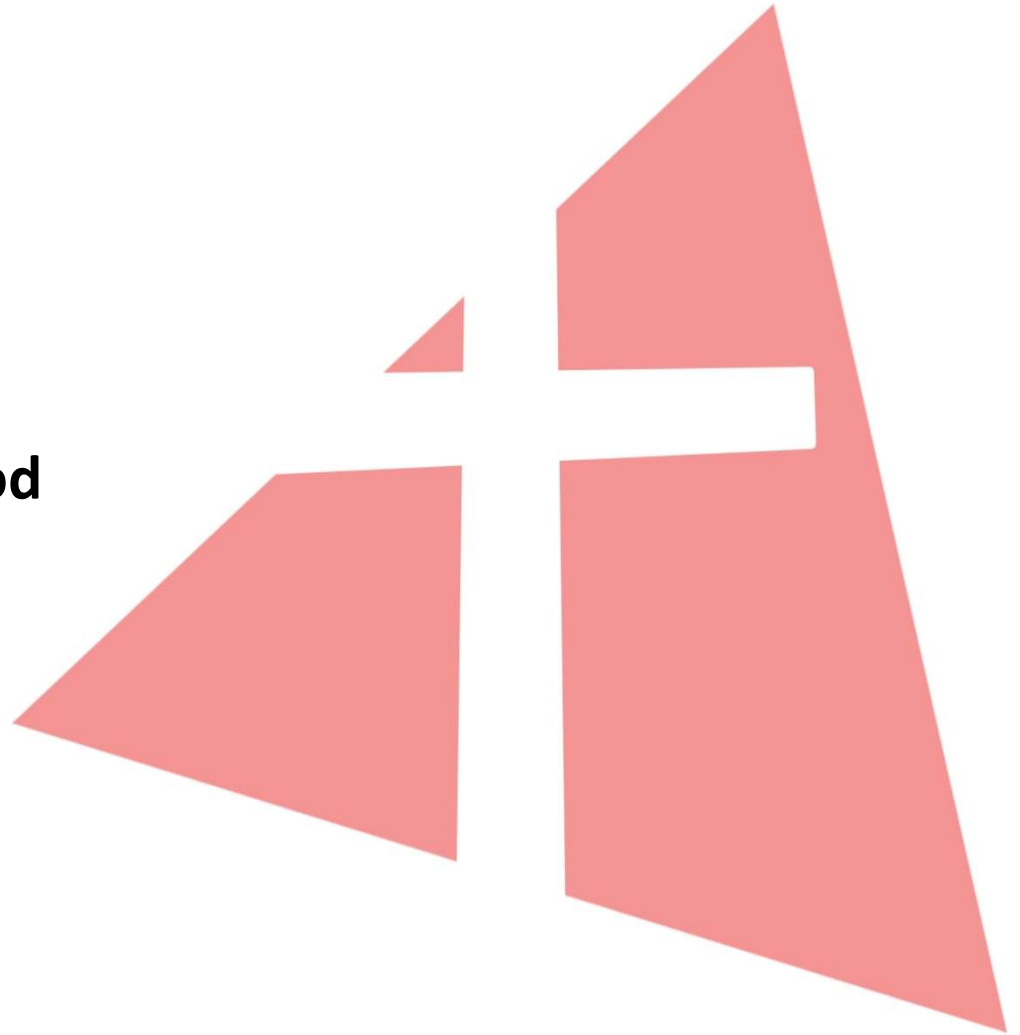
○ Sharing life

- Protecting each other

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:28-30)

THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY

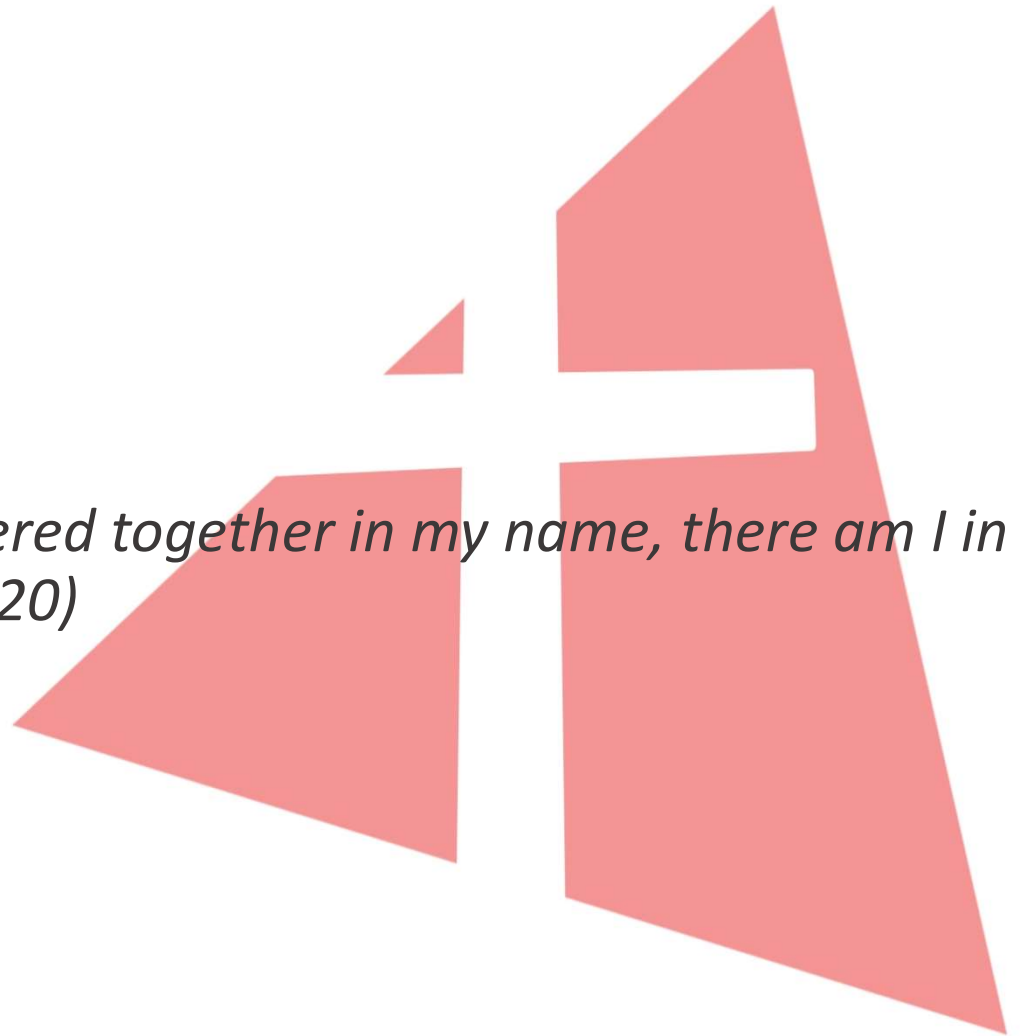
- We do it all for the glory of God



THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY

- **The presence of Jesus**

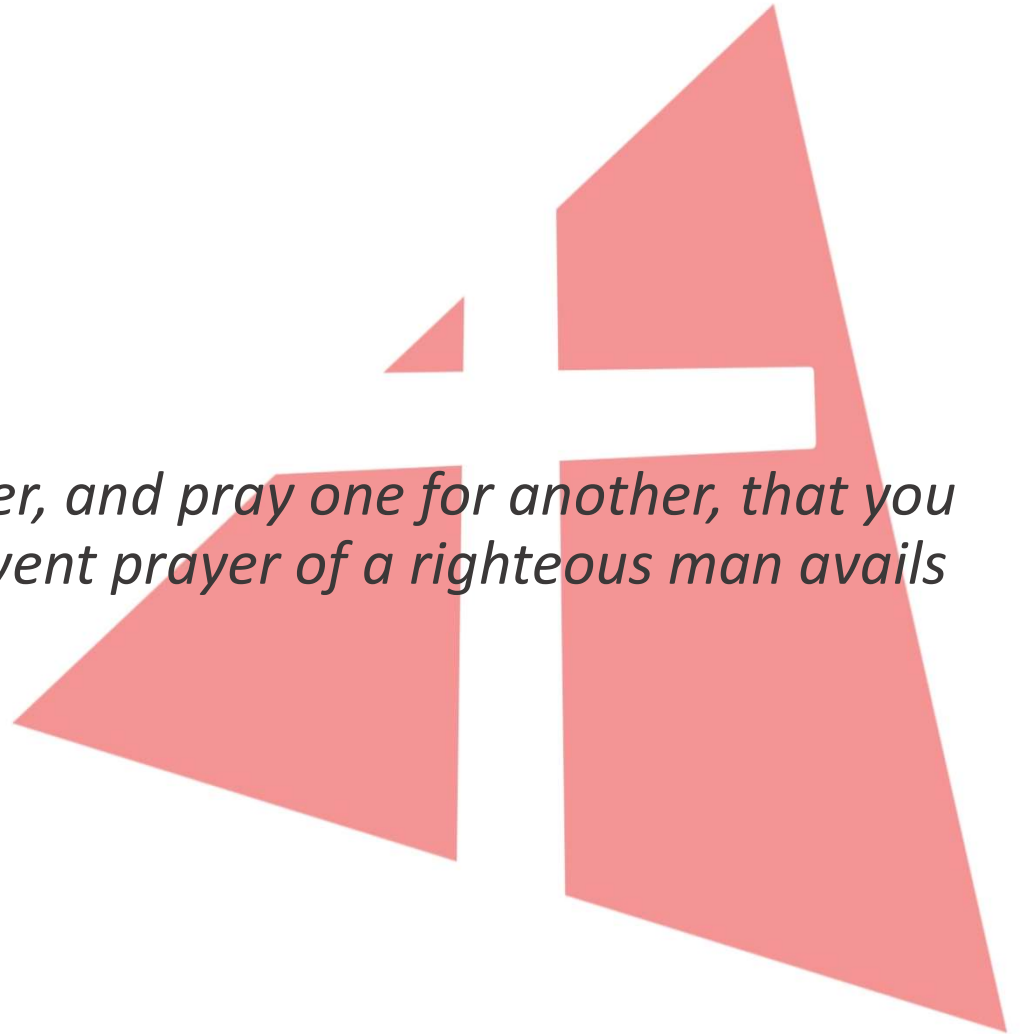
For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20)



THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY

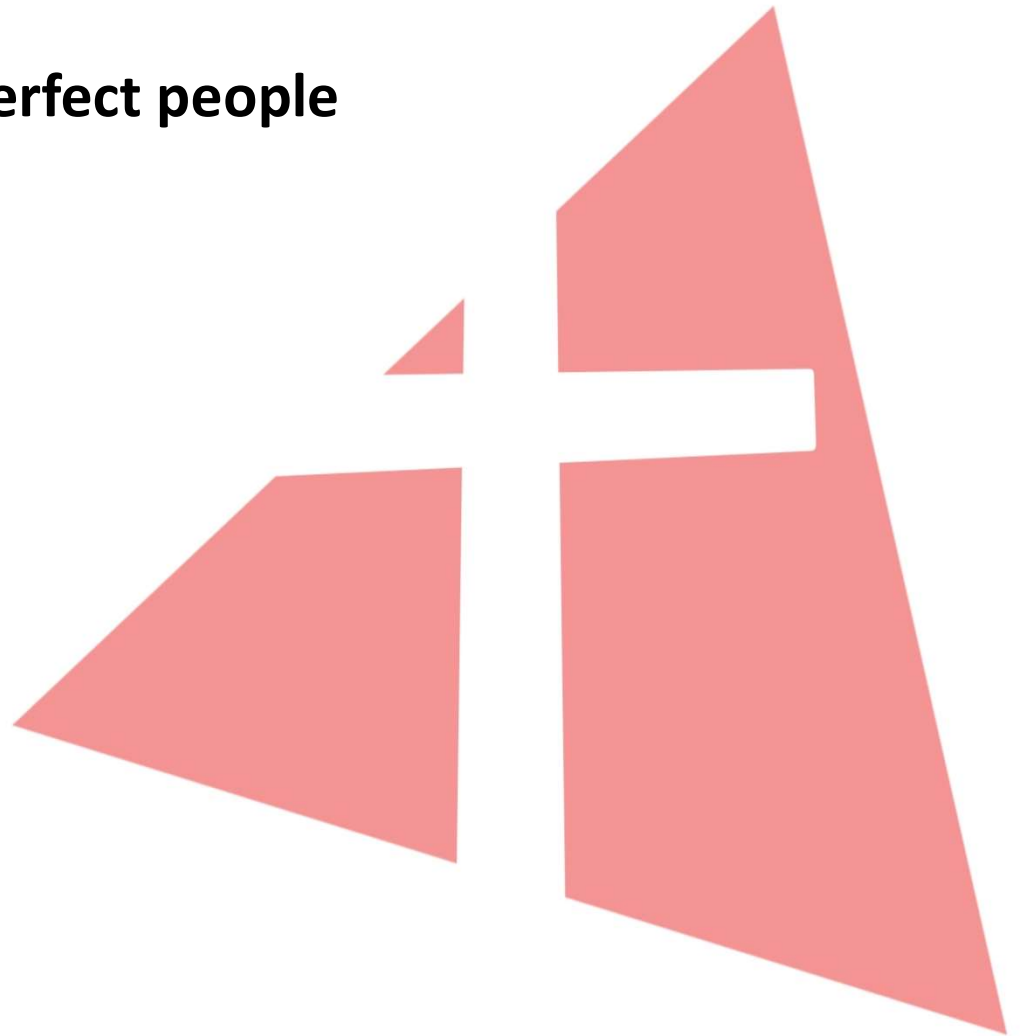
○ Healing

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)



THE CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY

- **The church is made up of imperfect people**
 - Others will disappoint us
 - Others will hurt us
 - Others will let us down
 - ...
- **Living in community**
 - Takes effort
 - Is painful at times
 - Is disappointing at times
 - ...



COMMUNITY IS WORTH IT

- **None of us can reach heaven without community**




ALETHEIA

- **One of the things this church will put a special focus on: Community**
 - For Christians
 - For those who are curious about Christianity
 - ...

SUNDAY SERVICES

- **Just attending a Sunday service does not automatically mean we live in community**

IN CONCLUSION

- **Jesus calls all of us to be part of His community**
 - **Will you respond to His call today?**
- 
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