



Three things biblical community is *not*:

- 1) Not a **choice** – Hebrews 10:24-25
- 2) Not just **hanging out** – Acts 2:42
- 3) Not just for **you**

Philippians 2:1- The foundation of why and how we build community is our being **in Christ**.

Philippians 2:2- The foundation of our experience and pursuit of biblical community is the **truth** of Jesus Christ that unifies us.

Be like-minded – having a mindset and a **perspective** that is the same because it is defined by the truth of Christ.
The truth of **God's Word** must be the lens through which we see and understand our lives, our church, our world.

Having the same love – have **affections** for and value in the same things. Not only do we think the same, we **love** the same:

- Loving God is with your **all**. Mark 12:30
- Loving God is **obeying** God. 1 John 5:3
- Loving God is not loving **the world**. 1 John 2:15-16
- Loving God is **using** your life for Christ's sake. Matt. 10:37-39

Being one in spirit and purpose

We are the church together so the vision God has for Fairway is the **purpose** He has given to you: to be moving people to life in Christ one step at a time together.

Not only are we as individuals directed toward the same single goal together, we are united also in **how to do so**. The steps are taken individually but are understood and owned corporately.

Philippians 2:3-4 – The “don'ts and dos” of biblical community

- The first don't is **selfish ambition**.

When what we do or don't do in the body of Christ is to accomplish our own way, our own **comfort**, our own importance, or just so others might praise us, those actions will be divisive in the church.

- The second don't is **vain conceit**.

When how we think or are motivated in the body of Christ is **pride** or **self-pity**, even when well-masked or rationalized, then our actions will be divisive in the church.

The first part of building community is refusing to practice, give ear to, or tolerate those things in **ourselves** or **one another**.

But we have to not only avoid that which destroys community, we have to **actively** build community as well:

7 Principles for building biblical community (from Bonhoeffer):

1. **Think** humbly.
2. Speak kindly.
3. **Listen** carefully.
4. Respond gracefully.
5. **Forgive** freely.
6. Share truthfully.
7. **Serve** namelessly.

Community is not just about the breadth or the depth of **relationships**; it is built by looking to the needs of others practically through **service** in, to, and as the church.

God designed **every** single believer to have a certain function or functions within His body. (Seriously read 1 Corinthians 12 & 13)

We will never really find biblical community until we begin to understand and see ourselves as **one** body and until we believe we have and must be active with our **spiritual gifts**.

A spiritual gift is not an end unto itself; it is simply the channel through which **God** uses **you** to build community.

When we individually do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but instead look to the needs of others in how we **relate** and how we **serve** as God has enabled us, then we build biblical community.

If we are going to be a church that moves people to life in Christ one step at a time together, we must prioritize, pray for, fight for, and give opportunities to **build community** through the breadth and depth of our relationships and our service to the body of Christ.