

CommUnity of the Heart

Pastor Mark Lehmann

³² “All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

Acts 4:32-35 NLT

“Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful- Christian community is the final apologetic.”

-Francis Schaeffer

Called Out to:

- Be United in Heart and Mind
- To Live Out a Generous Spirit
- To Take Care of Those in Need
- Diverse Background United Focus to Jesus and the Cross

What does our Community need to be?

What will you do in order to be “Called Out and Called Too”?

- Get Along

¹³⁻¹⁵ Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other’s nerves you don’t snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.

1 Thessalonians 5:13-15 MSG

- Don’t be Divisive

“A Christian community lives and exists by the intercession of its members for each other, or it collapses. I can no longer hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me.... His face is transformed in intercession into the face of a forgiven sinner.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Community
- United

¹⁰ I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NLT

There is a calling for community to be better than merely meeting.

- Love Greatly

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Colossians 3:12-14 MSG

¹⁻³ Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

Galatians 6:1-3 MSG

¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

Romans 12:16 NLT

²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

- Get Busy

⁹⁻¹⁰ But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

1 Peter 2:9-10 MSG

²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. ²⁷ All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:25-27 NLT

"To turn the tide of materialism in the Christian community, we desperately need bold models of kingdom-centered living."

-Randy Alcorn

Mission Statement: Building an Authentic Community, Lifting up Jesus, Growing in Him, and Touching our World

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer