
SERMON NOTES March 20, 2022

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

**Ephesians 2:19-22
Radical Transformative Community
Pastor Mike**

I. The _____ of building community

II. Th _____ of Christian community

a. The Biblical _____ about the _____ of community

b. The cultural _____ in _____ community

III. The _____ of Christ centered community

Three _____ of Biblical community

- A citizen in a _____

- A member of a _____

- A building block of _____

a. The intensity of our connection with _____

b. The intensity of our connection with _____

IV. Our _____ of radical community

a. _____ as an expression of our _____

b. It necessitates _____ and _____

c. The necessity of community to _____

Our connection _____ is linked to our community _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Rugged individualism and personal independence are two uniquely American values that define our national character. Some have argued that this has caused us to over-emphasize our personal relationship with God at the expense of a proper emphasis on the importance of our corporate relationship with Him as part of a church. How do you respond to this idea?
2. When asked if they believed a person could be a very good Christian without attending church, 81% of Americans responded yes.
 - a. What is your initial response to this statistic?
 - b. To what degree is it possible for a Christian to grow strong in their Christian maturity without being deeply connected to a body of believers?
 - c. To what degree is it possible for a Christian to fully know the power of God working in them and through them without being deeply connected to a body of believers?
3. When you read Paul and the other apostles teaching about the importance of a believer's involvement in a church, what do you think they assumed this involvement would look like? How does this compare with what we commonly think our church involvement should look like, and if there is a difference, where does it come from?
4. In verses 19-22 Paul paints a picture of the church that involves a high level of personal accountability. Passages such as Hebrews 3:12-13 suggest that this should go so deep that we have other believers who know our areas of vulnerability and who we give the right to challenge us when they see us struggle with sin.
 - a. Is the thought of this level of closeness something that you find attractive or scary – or both?
 - b. Have you ever had this level of closeness with another Christian? If so how did it impact your spiritual growth?
 - c. How do we develop this level of relationship? What steps can you take in the coming weeks to start going deeper with a few other Christians?
5. In his message, Pastor Mike said that the Bible teaches that it is impossible to grow deeply in our walk with God, and it is impossible to fully know God's power in your life without being involved in radical Christian community.
 - a. Do you agree? Is this always the case? Are there ever exceptions?
 - b. If this is true, then what are you doing to pursue this kind of radical community?
6. At the end of his message Pastor Mike quoted C. S. Lewis and what he learned about friendship. Lewis said, *"In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough to call the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets."* Lewis then applied this principle to our relationship with God, teaching we need others to help us know God fully.
 - a. How have you seen this play out in your own experience? Can you think of examples where other people have helped you see and understand aspects of God and his character?
 - b. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* What does this mean?