

## SESSION 2 | Knowing and Building Community Caleb Collins

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—* <sup>12</sup> *that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

Romans 1:8-12

### I. INTRODUCTION

*Where are you tempted to approach community in the church more as a comfort-driven consumer than a commitment-based builder?*

*How might your practice of community change if you really believed the ultimate purpose is to make much of Jesus, not meet your felt needs?*

**Biblical Community is...**

**our corporate identity in Christ expressed through supernatural love, that makes much of Jesus**

### Roadmap!

- **Today**, we answer two questions:
  - o Is community a thing I can hold?
  - o Where can I see community in the church?
- **Next Week**: Practical Community (in the life-on-life, one-on-one level)
- **Last Week**: How can we protect and foster community?

## II. "KNOWING" COMMUNITY

### A. Community and Commodity

- a. Ways we treat community as commodity
  
- b. Romans 1 as example of community

### B. Knowing and Commodity

### C. How do we "know" something?<sup>1</sup>

- a. Listening to trusted authorities
  
- b. Doing what they prescribe
  
- c. *Seeing* what they are showing you
  
- d. Examples of transformative, not informative knowledge:
  - i. Reading
    - "The man preached the good news of Jesus Christ to the church"*
  
    - "The woman in a broken voice with tears in her eyes broke the silence and exclaimed to her son, "Your father is gone."*
  
  - ii. Radiology
  
  - iii. School

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<sup>1</sup> Both the definition and two of the illustrations come from Dru Johnson's *Scripture's Knowing*

**iv. The Lord's Supper (Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-26)**

**D. "Knowing" the Marks of Corporate, Biblical Community (*Question: how do you see the definition played out? What other Scripture would you put as reference?*)**

**a. The Preaching of the Word (1 Tim 4, 2 Tim 4)**

**b. The Lord's Supper (Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-26)**

**c. Baptism (Rom 6)**

**d. Prayer (Mt. 6:9-13; Col 4:2-5; 1 Thess 5:17; Eph 1:15-23...)<sup>2</sup>**

**i. "Pray through a reasonably comprehensive list of biblical priorities."**

1. Pray for the physical needs within your church
2. Pray for specific individuals in your church
3. For other gospel-preaching churches in your area
4. Pray with respect for those in authority
5. Pray for issues facing your city or region
6. Pray for missionaries
7. Pray for the sermon

**ii. Develop a list of the things you hope will increasingly characterize your church."**

1. Pray for our witness and unity in diversity
2. Pray for daily lives this week at work and at home
3. Pray that we would see relationships in the local church as part of what it means to be a Christian

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<sup>2</sup> List comes from Dever and Dunlap's *Compelling Community*

4. Pray that we would understand the need to make our relationships at church transparent, to be willing to tell embarrassing things about ourselves and to ask awkward questions when needed
5. Pray that we would expect conversations with other church members to be deep, and often theological in nature.
6. Pray that we would think it important to encourage each other with Scripture.
7. Pray that we would see part of being a Christian as being a provider, and not a consumer.
8. Pray that we would not see service in the local church as being primarily about meeting our own felt needs by utilizing our giftedness but about bringing God glory.
9. Pray that we would see it as unusual when the local church isn't the focal point of much of our energy and ambition
10. Pray that we would see it as unusual when a member's life seems to keep church on the periphery.
11. Pray that we would see hospitality as an important part of being a Christian.

**e. Service and the "One-Another's" of Scripture (Next Week!)**

**III. HOMEWORK**

- I. Where can you this morning lean into practices which God tells us to find biblical community as the corporate body of Christ?
- II. What are ways that you can, like Paul in Romans 1, give and receive community at KingsWay?
- III. Pick 3 topics from the two lists above to pray over this week.