

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: Being in Community is an Act of Your Will

Does Holy Spirit have to direct us into unity and brotherly love? No! It's supposed to be what we desire to do because of his presence in our own bodies. It originates from a desire in our heart that he places there, it's not a directive that he constantly giving us, or instances when he wants us to do it and others when he doesn't. Unity and *agape* love are an act of our will.

Being in community is an act of your will. It's a conscious act that we commit to operating in community.

Get that!

Community doesn't just happen, it must actively develop as we focus on developing it.

Same with unity. Both don't happen just because someone says that they exist or that they are characteristics of the Body.

We have to work at unity and community, as well as loving one another, because this is how we're supposed to operate as Kingdom citizens.

If we don't actively do this so that it becomes a lovely, desirable habit, it will slowly evaporate. Whatever you don't work on as a habit will fade unless there is a benefit to your body or soul that maintains it.

Example: How is your current interest in politics? Most people have a stance on it, but the mental activity around it only occurs during elections. The rest of the time, life goes on and overshadows it.

Check yourself. Is community part of your DNA, part of your thought life every single day? Has the affairs of life enveloped you so that community only pops up on Sunday morning at 9am or only during your preparations for Sunday's gathering?

Remember the days of Noah? There's a lesson there.

Matthew 24:37-39 (NKJV) – But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. **For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away,** so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Remember the parable of the sower?

Matthew 13:22 (NKJV) – Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and **the cares of this world** and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Paul addresses the issue of focus on the King's business also:

1 Corinthians 7:34 (NKJV) – There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. **The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.**

Let's deliberately focus on being a community – a family of believers, as we're called to be.

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4-2-2016

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