

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: Not an Add-On

Recently I heard some very interesting points about the importance of a Kingdom community, which is more than meeting on Sunday in a designated building, but brothers and sisters being in close relationship, meeting together at various times to support, edify and encourage each other. These points I received at two conferences I attended over the past month.

(1) A Place of Greatest Change

Ian Clayton stated that a true community is where we do our best growing. In a place of open relationship with others we must deal in love with their foibles when their character traits and behaviours ‘rub’ us the wrong way. It is here that sister sandpaper and brother abrasive bring to the surface all our bad attitudes and the iniquities of the heart, for all to see. When this occurs we have to deal with these heart conditions which is a large part of the Lord’s molding and shaping of our character.

When we are isolated from others, or we mix with others in a guarded way, we can ignore our reactions – and even be oblivious to them – so that they remain part of our behaviour and attitudes. The chipping away of our ‘rough edges’ doesn’t take place in these circumstances and we fail to mature as Kingdom sons. We can even get to a state of being so ‘hard’ that the Spirit cannot work in us and we drift into bitterness, sliding out of the Kingdom without knowing it.¹

(2) A Place of Greatest Healing

Phil Mason showed that John 17:22-23 can only really take place within a Kingdom family environment – such as an effective, real Kingdom Community. From each person’s perspective, they must see their community as their Kingdom family.

Because of the presence of spiritual mothers and fathers in such a family, the greatest healing takes place because of their care and oversight. When wounds surface as reactions to people and circumstances, in this safe environment they can be dealt with in a loving parental way. This is not done by praying over them so they feel loved, but by walking them through their issues so that they are no longer present. This is true healing.

(3) A Place of Glory

There in community, Father will impart his glory to us² which catalyses us to become one. In this way the world will see a company of beloved sons living in unity as a witness, and Father’s *glory will be their family trait*.

So, community is not an add-on to the Kingdom Life, it is essential for the very good realities outlined above – as well as others.

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1 – See Matthew 7:22-23

2 – John 17:22-23