

THE CHURCH IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

December 2022 Weekend Away Workshop

In this workshop, we would like to investigate the following:-

- *How the local community view the early church?*
- *How our local community view the church today?*
- *In what way can we be a “city set on a hill” so that people see our good works and glorify God?*
- *What can we do, what should we do?*

A. The Early Church – a Community of Believers

Acts 2:41-47 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

How did the local community view the early believers?

B. The Present Church – a Community of Believers

How do you think the world view the current Church?

How does the local community view us?

How should we as a church be seen by the local community?

C. What can we do, what should we do?

Why do we need to be involved with the local community?

How can we be a 'city set on a hill'? (From within)

References

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:7-11

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Matthew 22:37-39

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Philippians 2:14-16

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient[c] in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Romans 12:9-16

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:7-11

*According to Scripture, the church is a community of Christians who **care for** one another, **love** one another, **host** one another, **receive** one another, **honour** one another, **serve** one another, **instruct** one another, **forgive** one another, **motivate** one another, **build peace with** one another, **encourage** one another, **comfort** one another, **pray for** one another, **confess sin** to one another, **esteem** one another, **edify** one another, **teach** one another, **show kindness to** one another, **give to** one another, **rejoice with** one another, **weep with** one another, **hurt with** one another and **restore** one another.*

‘Life in Community: Joining Together to Display the Gospel’ Page 13.

An outline taken from the **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** “50 Ways to Take Church to the Community”

(<https://www.churchleadership.com/50-ways/50-ways-to-take-church-to-the-community/>):

1. Embrace an expansive concept of community
2. Prepare spiritually
3. Get to know the community surrounding your church
4. Listen n learn
5. Build authentic
6. Turn your existing ministries outward
7. Reach out through community events
8. Extend your congregation spiritual presence beyond church walls –
9. Connect spiritual outreach to community service

Books and articles

Life in Community: Joining Together to Display the Gospel

– August 4, 2015 by Dustin Willis

Love One Another: 20 Practical Lessons

by Don McMinn

50 Ways to Take Church to the Community

- By Lewis Center On November 24, 2014

<https://www.churchleadership.com/50-ways/50-ways-to-take-church-to-the-community/>