



LOVE LOOKS LIKE...

shofar
christian church

community

A background image showing two hands holding a colorful paper airplane. The airplane is made of four pieces of paper: purple with white polka dots, yellow, red, and light green. The hands are positioned as if they are about to launch the airplane. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue gradient.

No man is an island

No man is an island,
entire of itself

Every man is a piece of the continent
a part of the main...

by John Donne



community

kə'mju:nɪti/

a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing ***common characteristics*** or ***interests*** and perceived or perceiving itself as ***distinct in some respect*** from the larger society within which it exists

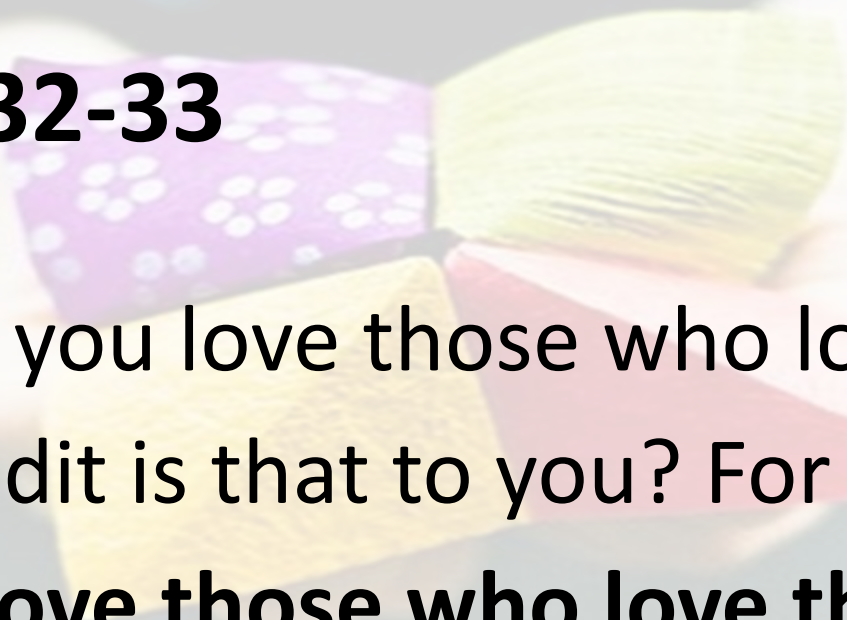


WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR US TO
GET AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY RIGHT?

1.) BECAUSE JESUS SAID SO...

John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people ***will know that you are my disciples***, if you have love for one another.”



Luke 6:32-33

³² “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners love those who love them.**

³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

A hand is shown holding a stack of four wrapped gifts. The gifts are wrapped in purple paper with white polka dots, yellow paper with a white floral pattern, and pink paper. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...

glorifies God!

2.) THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING

So we are Christ's ambassadors;

God is making his appeal through us.

We speak for Christ when we plead,

"Come back to God!"

2 Cor 5:20 (NLT)

A pair of hands is shown holding several colorful sticky notes. The notes are in shades of purple, yellow, and pink. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

IF GOD WANTS TO MAKE HIS APPEAL
THROUGH US,

WE NEED TO BE APPEALING

Romans 8:19 (HCSB)

For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for **God's sons to be revealed.**

Luke 6:35

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and ***you will be sons of the Most High.*** For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

A pair of hands is shown holding a large, multi-layered paper bow. The bow is composed of several layers of paper in different colors and patterns: purple with white polka dots, yellow with a textured pattern, and pink. The hands are positioned behind the bow, one on the left and one on the right, with fingers slightly curled as if holding it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue gradient.

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...

**appeals to & draws the world
back to the LOVE of God!!**

3.) WE GROW

“The Spirit of God has been sent to create unity out of diversity, peace out of conflict, and healing out of wounded hearts. The greatest spiritual growth will come from overcoming differences, and the greatest testimony of God’s supernatural work in a Christian community will be the love and unity that results from taking the long, hard road of true community.”

Retro Christianity – True Community

i.) BEING PART OF A CHURCH FAMILY OR COMMUNITY IS NOT
ALWAYS COMFORTABLE AND EASY...

“Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always “me first,”

Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

1 Cor 13:4-7 (MSG)

A blurred background image showing a person's profile from the side, holding a stack of four colorful books. The books are purple with white polka dots, yellow, red, and pink. The text is overlaid on this image.

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...
grows authentic Christians

II.) UNITY IS PART OF AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called. With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to **preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace** ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;* ⁶ *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

Ephesians 4:1-3



SHALOM (PEACE):

“health and beauty come
from the **harmonious
integration of different parts**”



AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...

has UNITY from diversity

4.) WE NEED IT

“And let us consider one another **in order to stir up love and good works** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)

IN COMMUNITY...

- love and good works are stirred up
- we are encouraged and strengthened
- we are established
- we are healed and restored
- needs can be met
- we find wisdom and counsel
- we find FAMILY



AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY...

looks like family!

WHAT YOU PUT IN, YOU'LL GET OUT

“Judge not, and you shall not be judged.
Condemn not, and you shall not be
condemned. Forgive, and you will be
forgiven. ³⁸ **Give, and it will be given back to
you: good measure, pressed down, shaken
together, and running over will be put into
your lap. For with the same measure that
you use, it will be measured back to you.”**

Luke 6:37-38

A hand is shown holding four colorful paper airplanes. The airplanes are purple with white polka dots, yellow, pink, and light green. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

MINISTRY TIME...