



Romans 12 wk5: Authentic Community

Introduction: Loneliness and isolation have been recognized as a problem of epidemic proportions by world governments and non-religious authorities. Isn't it interesting that God has designed the church to meet our individual and collective needs for belonging and purpose? What if the transformation that God does in our lives impacted our communities as well?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think loneliness has become an epidemic in society, and how do you think the concept of authentic community can help combat it?
2. **Read Romans 12:9-13** That word "sincere" references taking off the masks that were part of the theater at the time. What masks do we sometimes wear when we come to church or a group? How can removing masks and being authentic with one another help to build a stronger church community?
3. In the sermon, Jeremy equated hating what is evil and clinging to what is good to purity. How does that abhorring evil and clinging to good work in relationships? How can we practice purity in our lives, and why is it essential for building an authentic community?
4. **Read Philippians 2:5-8** How can having a Christ-like mindset improve our relationships within the church community? Why do we sometimes have a difficult time with someone treating us like a servant?
5. Why is hospitality important in the context of authentic community, and how can we practice it more effectively? What are some practical ways you can show hospitality to others, both within the church community and outside of it?

Shaping Your Mind – *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves Romans 12:10*

Moving Forward – Isolation destroys, but authentic community restores. Seek that restoration!