

September 17, 2017

(DNA Series)

“DNA 1: We Value Community”, Acts 2:42-47

This DNA Series is a three week reminder of Perry Creek Church’s core values, which reflect the heartbeat of our passions and priorities. The image of a tree helps us to remember our core values: a tree drinks deeply (Bible and Prayer), it grows richly (Family and Community, and it shares freely (Missions). Today we focus on the core value of Community.

Why community is important:

God calls us to community. The Bible assumes that we will not live alone, but in community: sheep need a flock, body parts need a body, children (of God) need a family. Acts 2:42-47 shows the early Church modeling community for Christians. Perry Creek Church chooses to do community through assigning all members to small groups, in which they are either actively participating or an adjunct member receiving communication & care.

Benefits of Gospel community:

1. Community is where our teaching is lived out.

In small groups we think, wrestle, and share about how God’s Word affects our lives. As we interact with God’s Word within ourselves and with others, we discover that it changes us, grows us, and spills over into action. Just as the early church “devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching” (Acts 2:42), our small group communities are where our Sunday teachings (sermons) are lived out through discussion, sharing, application, and caring.

2. Community is where we learn to love each other.

By living in a committed community in small groups, we regularly experience loving each other as imperfect people created in God’s image, as we show up and openly share our thoughts and lives with each other. Even with EGR folks (extra grace required) in our groups, God gives grace for ALL to love and be loved, and to grow.

Just as the early Church community continually loved each other by sharing their “property and possessions” (Acts 2:44-46), we too are challenged to consider our possessions as resources with which we can serve and love each other...within our small groups and beyond.

3. Community is compelling to others.

Just as the early church “added to their numbers daily those being saved” (Acts 2:47) who were drawn because the community showed such Godly qualities as faith, love & forgiveness, and sharing of possessions, we too will be attractive at our church for others (as interested, new, or maturing believers) to join us. Living in a believing community, loving and taking care of others in need, is a powerful witness to our faith.

Prayer: May we reach out in love and encouragement to others in our small group community, at Perry Creek Church, and the worldwide community of believers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are your experiences with Christian “community”? small groups?
2. What is the difference between Christian small groups and cliques?
3. Have you seen any of the teachings from our church’s sermons actually lived out in your life or others because of your small group discussions?
4. Have you ever considered your worldly possessions as resources to help others? How do you share them in community?

5. Jesus said that the world would know His followers by their love. People show and receive love in many ways, e.g.: tangible gifts, appropriate physical touch, quality time spent with the person, acts of service (helping out), words of affirmation. In which area(s) might your small group love you personally the most? love our church? love the world?

What specific ways can your small group show love to you, to each other, to our church, to the world?