



Satisfaction – Belonging – Week 3

Announcements

- **201 Dream Team Orientation** – Sunday, December 8th, 5:00 pm at all campuses. Get connected and find your place to serve on the Dream Team. Register at www.churchoftheking.com/register
- **Small Group Break** – December 15th – January 18th. Please note, small group lessons will not be available during the small group break.

Warm-up

Share a time when you felt part of a group, team or a common goal. What kind of emotions did that connection invoke?

God created each of us with a core need to belong and connect with others. Today we explore the third and final message of this series, the God-given need for *belonging*.

Word and Application

God gives us the first example of living in relationships. The Bible teaches there is only One God, manifested in three persons – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. If God lives in community, how vital is it for us to also live in community?

A negative trend sweeping across the developed world is “relational poverty.” How would you describe “relational poverty” in your own words?

We are designed to belong and to be interdependent on one another, yet dependence upon others is often viewed unfavorably. Why is *independence* so highly paraded in our society?

Discuss the following three modern trends and how each can contribute to relational poverty.

1. Increased mobility lends to fewer long-term relationships.
2. Modern conveniences encourage self-imposed isolation.

3. Rise of social media can create deferred loneliness.

Read Acts 2:42-47. What made this group of believers a close-knit community?

Similar to the believers of the New Testament church, we can create healthy and thriving Christian communities by being intentional with the love of Christ. Let's look at three qualities of great Christian communities.

Three Qualities of Great Christian Communities

1. **We have open doors, arms and hearts.**

Read Acts 2:44

The first quality of developing a strong Christian community encompasses how we share our lives. The key is keeping our relationships centered on Christ.

Give some examples of what it means to "do life" together.

2. **We keep it real.**

Let's face it. We all have character flaws and imperfections. Aside from Jesus, no one is perfect. *Real* relationships reveal flaws and issues.

Read Romans 15:7. Describe a time when grace and acceptance was extended to you despite the fact you were in the wrong.

3. **We fight for one another.**

Read 1 Peter 5:8

Christianity is not a playground. This is a battleground. Because we have a real enemy, it is essential we stand together and we fight together.

What are some practical ways we can fight for one another daily?

Read John 13:35

Are you familiar with the expression "love is an action verb"? When we as believers show love to one another we share our lives, we accept others' flaws, we hold each other accountable, we pray and encourage one another and we fight for each other. We belong.

Prayer

Pray for God to reveal ways that your small group can become a stronger Christian community. Also, take time to ask for specific prayer requests from those in your small group.