



Sunday, Nov 1, 2020 - The Sanctuary

The THREE Characteristics of a Missional Community

God's story: creation, fall, redemption, restoration

> He has invited us to be part of His Redemptive movement

1) Be Together

The love of God was the very center of the group's reason for being together

They gathered together by virtue of their faith in Jesus Christ, love for one another

- They were committed to lifelong friendship and mutual submission was the norm.
- Their friendships were inclusive and focused on the essentials.
- They made family life a clear priority and delighted in each other's marriages and children.

Matthew 22:36-40 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'^[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

We know this as the Great Commandment...

2) Bible (learn) Together

- They were people who regarded prayer and Bible study as serious matters.
- They shared a common commitment to Jesus Christ and a clear sense of calling.
- They worshiped both privately and publicly, gathering twice weekly at the Clapham Church.
- The primary focus when our missional communities meet weekly is to study, share, pray, grow, and LEARN together, rooted in understanding God's word.

Acts 2:42-47 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



Matthew 28:16-20 *16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

We know this as The Great Commission ...

3) Build Together

- They gathered together and out of concern for a variety of moral, social and religious causes.
- This group believed that they were representatives of God's kingdom on earth and the faithful stewards of all God had given them.

1 John 3:16 *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with **actions and in truth.***

> what are you dreaming of - how can our missional communities support one another dreams?

Matthew 25 - let's be sustained by the Great Compassion

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Closing Prayer

Isaiah 61 **1** The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, **2** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, **3** and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.