

“God’s Call to Community”

I Peter 2:9,10 / Ephesians 4:1-16
New Hope Community Church
May 5th, 2019

A. God Has Called His People Into Community (1 Pt 2:9,10)

1. Consider the design for **Israel**
2. Consider the metaphors used of the **church**
 - A spiritual **house**, each of us being a living stone (1 Pt 2:5)
 - A **family** with God as our Father (Hb 2:11-15)
 - A **body**, designed specifically to function together (1 C 12)
3. Consider the pattern seen in the **formation** of the church (Ac 2)

B. In Community Christ In Us Is Developed & Expressed (Eph 4)

1. Full **maturity** in Christ requires participation in community (Eph 4:13-15)
2. Genuine love for God is shown by loving His **people** (1 Jn 5:1)
3. The **one another** commands teach us how to love each other as Jesus loves us (Eph 4:16)
4. The spiritual **gifts** teach us how to serve each another as Jesus serves us (1 Pt 4:12)
 - Encouragement - comforts when we are **struggling**
 - Knowledge - teaches when we are **unlearned**
 - Wisdom - explains when we are **confused**
 - Leadership - guides when we are **uncertain**
 - Mercy - touches when we are **hurting**
 - Administration - arranges when we are **disorganized**
 - Exhortation - corrects when we are **off course**
 - Helps - comes alongside when we need **support**

Personal Reflection

1) Have I been the recipient of others expressing any of these gifts toward me

2) How am I expressing any of these gifts in serving others?

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Life Group Discussion Questions

Read I Peter 2:9,10 / Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Mike spoke about some of the faithful men and women who helped him grow in his faith. Can you think of anyone who impacted your life for Christ?
2. Why do you think God designed us for community?
3. How does God use community to develop character?
4. What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you, and how are you using those gifts today?
5. If you are not using your spiritual gifts, why do you think that is, and is there an area in the church in which you would like to serve?
6. If you don’t know or are unsure as to what your spiritual gifts are, it may be helpful to ask the group if they have seen God working in you in a particular way to build up the body. It can also be helpful to fill out a spiritual gifts assessment, and you can get one from Pastor Mike.
7. Do you have any questions about the sermon or questions in general that God has put on your heart this week?

How can we pray for you?