

SC Church 2.15.2026

Finding Community
Building Community

- A. Intro: Have you ever been judged incorrectly?
- B. Big Idea: Living God's ways build the community He desires.
- C. How do we build the community and connections God desires?
- a. Treat all People with Dignity and Respect
 - i. James 2:1-4 NLT – My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? ² For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. ³ If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, ⁴ doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?
 - ii. Genesis 1:26-27 NLT – ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” ²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
 - iii. James 2:8-9 NLT – ⁸ Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹ But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.
 - iv. Mark 12:30-31 NLT – ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”
 - b. Be People of Faith and Action
 - i. James 2:14-20 NLT – ¹⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. ¹⁸ Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show

you my faith by my good deeds.”¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.²⁰ How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

- ii. James 2:21-24 NLT –²¹ Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?²² You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.²³ And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God.²⁴ So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.
- iii. James 2:25-26 NLT –²⁵ Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.²⁶ Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

D. Close: How can you build community with those around you this week?

- a. Matthew 7:12 NLT –¹² “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

b. Next Steps

- i. Memorize: Matthew 7:12 NLT –¹² “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.
- ii. Think: Who have I treated differently and why?
- iii. Action: Join a Care Group