

**Community (AKA-Fellowship)** is divinely designed for various reasons that bring numerous benefits. The primary purpose of Community is to **display God's glory to a fallen and broken world and to show what true love really looks like.**

When Biblical Community is practiced it is a win win win...

1. God gets the glory.
2. The believer gets the joy.
3. The congregation gets the encouragement.
4. The unsaved get a glimpse of God's glory in the lives of those God has saved.

Biblical Community is the result of a sincere commitment made by those who identify in having Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. "Community" is defined as "a group of people who have the same interest." The Bible word for community is fellowship... the Greek word *Koinonia* = *to have things in common.*

### **Threefold Theme of 1 John**

1. Connect to Community - Through Commitment.
2. Build Community - Through acts of love.
3. Protect Community - Knowing how to identify and reject false teaching.

*1 John 1:3-4 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*

- The basis of our fellowship is **God the Father** and **Jesus His Son our Savior.**
- The result of fellowship is the **joy of God** in our lives.
- We will *not* fully experience joy (1:4) until we fully respond to God in obedience.

As followers of Christ we should ask ourselves on a daily basis...**Is there anything in my life that is in disobedience to my Lord and Savior?**

*Psalm 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

**1 John 2:12- 14** *I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup>I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father <sup>14</sup> I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.*

**Ephesians 4:32** *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **God in Christ forgave you**.*

**1 John 2:1-4** *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

(1) New Destiny (Heaven) (2) New Desires (God's Commands) (3) New Direction (God's Way)

**1 Peter 2:2** *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

**Psalm 130:3-4** *If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup>But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.*

**To fear God** is to have a holy reverence for who He is. To be in awe of Him, to fear God, affects our attitude and actions in a healthy and positive way. It does not hinder our life; **it enhances life in a significant way.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge of God.

The fear of the Lord is to hate pride and deceit.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The fear of the Lord brings confidence in life.

The fear of the Lord protects us from deceptive traps of society.

The fear of the Lord builds contentment within our hearts.

By the fear of the Lord men depart from sin.

The fear of the Lord gives life meaning and purpose.

The fear of the Lord helps us to not envy sinful lifestyles.

**Proverb 1:7, 2:5**

**Proverb 8:13**

**Proverb 9:10**

**Proverb 14:26**

**Proverb 14:27**

**Proverb 15:6, 19:23**

**Proverb 16:6**

**Proverb 22:4**

**Proverb 23:17**

**The fear of the Lord** is an understanding that God sees and knows everything about me and that one day I will give an account of myself to Him. re: **1John 2:28**

To "love the world" means to allow one's desires and actions to be fashioned by our culture instead of Christ.

**1 John 2:15-17** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

The **root issue** is about **our love life!** Who or what do we love the most?