



Everything in Common (Care Groups)

Feb. 21, 2016

Text: Acts 2:42-47 ESV “And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common, (45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Texts: Acts 4:32-35 ESV “Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (33) And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. (34) There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold (35) and laid it at the apostles feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

Disclaimer: We are not preaching communism or socialism we are encouraging the fellowship of believers in a small group ministry setting---Care Groups.



Let's take a detailed look at our discipleship model:

1. We worship as a family and invite others.
2. Get connected to a Care Group
3. Serve in the Ministry and at Home.

God calls his people to come together. God doesn't want us to gather in large groups only. He wants us to gather in small ones too.

Takeaways from Acts: 2:42-47

- They were devoted to their leadership.
- They were devoted to the teaching.
- They were devoted to fellowship.
- They were devoted to prayer.
- They were glad to meet in homes.

What are Care Groups? First the acronym **C.A.R.E.** means **Caring And Reaching Everyone**.

A CARE Group is a small group of 10-20 people who meet together regularly and are committed to the development of authentic community through loving and serving Christ and one another. It is a spiritual organism where the dynamics of the “Body of Christ” and evangelism are practiced.

We have to remember that there is strength, protection and encouragement in numbers. Even God knew Adam needed a helper (Eve).

Moses was teamed up with Aaron and Miriam; Daniel had his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. King David had his mighty men of valor, and Jesus had his twelve disciples.

Brothers and Sisters, we are not here to live as though we are on an island by ourselves. We need one another and we need to learn how to respond to the needs of one another when we can. This is what community is all about.

God has given us all spiritual gifts:

1 Cor. 12:4-7 NKJV “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”

One body in Christ but many members:

Rom 12:4-13 ESV “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; (7) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; (8) the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (9) Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (10) Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (11) Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (12) Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

How desperately each church needs EVERY member of the Body and their gifts! Not all will have each gift, but TOGETHER we complement one another for the glory of Christ! Here are some examples of skills, and gifts God gives to His people:

Helps	Music	Teaching	Intercession
Leadership	Craftsmanship	Missions	Prayer
Hospitality	Engineering	Pastoring	Doctors
Administration	Generosity	Evangelism	Nursing, etc...

Remember, God is sovereign and He gives gifts to the body of Christ according to His will and for His glorification to expand His kingdom.

- *Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."*
- *Psalms 133 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing life forevermore."*

The Christian faith is deeply rooted in relationships. Our relationship with God is first and foremost and then our relationships with others. That is what God has called his church to be about: creating environments where authentic community and spiritual growth can take place.

Matt 22:37-39 "Jesus said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

What is the reason for Care Groups? *Because CARE Groups meet needs!*

- They meet the need for a biblical pattern. (Acts 20:20)
- They meet the need for intimate personal relationships. (Eccl. 4:9- 11)
- They meet the need for intimate expression. (1 Cor 14:26)
- They meet the need for effective evangelism. (John 4:37)
- They meet the need for spiritual growth. (Eph 4:16)
- They meet the need for developing leaders. (II Tim 2:2)
- They meet the need for releasing every believer into ministry. (Eph 4:12)

Final thought:

Romans 15:5-7 "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."