

Date: **October 30, 2011**
Title: **Elements of Life Together**
Series: **Genuine Community**
Speaker: **Mike Acock**

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Summary

Scripture: Gal. 4:2-6, Isaiah 54:1

In American culture, success is being busy, but success in the kingdom is community (individual members known by each other, face-to-face). “The church is first and foremost a community, a collection of people who belong to one another because they belong to God, the God we know in and through Jesus,” Scriptures warns believers to avoid people who have “a form of godliness,” but they deny its power (II Tim. 3:1-5). Believers can deny the power of God by denying his transforming love in their lives.

According to Isaiah 26:1-4, our salvation is a dwelling place (walls and bulwarks). The doorway to the community of Jesus is grace. Colossians 3: 12-17 lists relational characteristics that we express not just to God, but to HIS people. Salvation and grace are the elements of entering into life in Community. The element of living life in community are love (receiving love is just as important, if not more so, as giving love) and humility (trusting God and others with yourself). I John 4:7-12 and I Peter 5:5

Life in community is sustained by forgiveness and celebration. Disappointment is critical to the process of community. We must forgive others for not being God, then we can celebrate whatever small or large reflection of God they bring. We celebrate a person and their gifts, not their talents and skills. Celebrating talents and skills opens the door for someone to believe the lie that they belong because of what they contribute or do.

Practical observations of life in community:

1. Mature vs Maturing: arrived vs. going someplace
2. Pace of Life:
3. Ministering Alone:
4. Speaking the Truth: Have I received love from the person to whom I am speaking? Speak the truth about who Jesus says they are.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can being too busy decrease community in the church?

2. How can our small group celebrate the reflection of God in each other?

3. Share a memory of a time when you experienced or observed someone receiving love from another believer or trusting another believer with the truth of their life.