**1st Century Church connecting with a 21st Century World Part 3: Community**

**\*\*VID Fluitt Home Invasion**

**Connect Group**

**Connections Pastor**

COMMUNITY

New Testament community:

Acts 2:1, KJV… 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place…

Acts 2: 42-47 KJV

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. 47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

A first century church must have true <community.>

Why is community important in a first century church?

1. God is not a God of division…unity/true community is needed to facilitate the movement of His Spirit

2. Man cannot accomplish much when division is present….one only needs to look at our federal government to see that divided people cannot get things accomplished

3. True community leads to endless possibilities….when man is in true community big things are possible (Tower of Babel in Genesis 11) when man and God are unified miraculous things are possible(miracles throughout the book of Acts were only possible when man and God were unified)

The Book of Acts is an excellent example of community in action…in Acts chapter 2 “1 they were all with one accord in one place…2 and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind…4 and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost”

1. Look at this closely….they were with one accord and in one place

2. Heaven moves when this true community comes together

3. The greatest of all miracles (the infilling of the Holy Ghost) hits this community and spreads like wild fire…. THE WORLD NOTICES WHEN TRUE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER!

The community in the Book of Acts was unified in purpose and miracles followed

**<United We Stand>**

Community is also present throughout America’s history.

In 1776 the 13 Colonies declared their independence from England…this was a gutsy move that could have ended in failure…..if not for a unified community of people that bought into the vision of an independent nation, success would not have been possible….but because of the power of community, England was defeated and a great nation was born

Community was also present in the recent history of this nation….when my parents were growing up communities truly knew each other and would come together to help raise children, protect neighborhoods from crime and celebrate blessings. When bad times came, neighbors were there to help and share the burdens that come.

Community now is hard to find….

1. Neighborhoods have been reduced to a collection of homes with no real community….

2. People don’t talk to neighbors like they used to….

3. People tend to “not want to get involved” when trouble strikes….this leads to spousal abuse that goes unreported…child abuse that goes unreported….drug trafficking that has infiltrated our neighborhoods and many other unspeakable crimes

4. If we can recapture true community we can reverse the downward spiral that our society is in.

HOW DO WE **<RECAPTURE COMMUNITY>**?

1. Repentance among believers

2. Reconnect with the community builder, God

3. Reconnect with other believers in the Church

4. Reach out to those outside the Church that live in our neighborhoods, work at our jobs, and attend our schools

Redemption Church has a plan for recapturing community….it starts here with the 3 Things we do when we come together

EVERYBODY WORSHIP

EVERYBODY RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

EVERYBODY TALK TO GOD

Recapturing community must continue when we leave and we do that by DOING the 3 Things we do when we leave

CONNECT WITH GOD

CONNECT WITH OTHER BELEIVERS

CONNECT OTHERS TO THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

The Book of Acts is our blueprint for success if we truly want to be a First Century Church that Reaches a 21st Century World……….we must read, know and live the Book of Acts to be in true community

If we get in true community….get unified with God and each other we can expand on the great things happening here at Redemption Church….

1. healings have happened but I believe that more are possible

2. people have been filled with the Holy Ghost but there are more to come

3. miracles have happened here but more are possible

4. love is present here but even more love is possible

God wants to reach this entire area….Plano, Allen, Irving, Dallas, Wylie and on and on

HE WANTS TO BRING NEW PEOPLE INTO OUR COMMUNITY… WILL YOU ALLOW THEM TO COME?

**ARE YOU REALLY CONNECTED TO THIS COMMUNITY?**

Redemption Church is a 1st Century Church reaching out to a 21st Century World…….let’s build on this great foundation….get even closer as a community and reach our world…..