

Biblical Community

Is _____ to church important? Only if _____ the CHURCH is important! Here's some homework for the next week or two. Write down 2 or 3 reasons why you attend and participate in church? Not things like, "the music" or "the incredible preaching." What gets you out of a warm bed on a cold Sunday morning to attend church?

KEY IDEA: I fellowship with Christians to **accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.**

Through commands, promises, and examples, the Bible makes it clear the Christian life was never intended to be lived alone. Those who have received Christ are now wired through their new spiritual DNA to live in community.

When you read Acts 2 you'll see this progression:

First Peter preached Christ crucified, risen and coming again. It was such a powerful message they were "cut to the heart" (v.37)

Second they were baptized. When Peter said to "repent and be baptized" that's what they did. (v. 38)

Third they joined a church family. Verse 41 says "*Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*"

Fourth they connected to a small group fellowship.

All together, THAT'S biblical community!

Why we need biblical community; fellowship with other believers:

I. to keep our relationship with _____ strong.

II. to keep our relationships with _____ strong.

III. to _____ God's will on earth.

Think about this: There are only two things you **can not** do in heaven.

One of them is... _____.

And the other is... you can't tell the _____ _____ to people who haven't heard it.

Which of those two do you think God leaves us here on earth to do?

Acts 2:37-41 (NLT)

37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.