

Structures to Encourage Biblical Community – Community Groups (Galatians 5:16-6:2 & Acts 2:42-47)

1. Misunderstandings of the Christian life...
2. No longer slaves to the flesh, but walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25)...
3. Helping one another in this process of sanctification through small groups that encourage authentic relationships (Galatians 6:1-2 & Acts 2:42-47)...

Questions for Discussion & Application:

1. What was surprising, challenging, or helpful from this study of God's Word?
2. How have we defined Biblical Community?
3. What are the foundations and essential marks of Biblical community that we have looked at in this series?
4. What was the first structure of Biblical Community that we recently looked at?
5. What are some common misunderstandings of how the Christian life works? Which of these are you most vulnerable to?
6. In the Christian life we have died to our old sinful flesh and are empowered to live by the strength of the Holy Spirit. However, we are not yet perfected in Christ, and so there is an ongoing battle with sin and a process of growth and change. Why would having authentic Christian friendships be so essential in this battle?
7. We are instructed to "walk by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16) and to "live by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). What does this mean? How will authentic relationships within the church, help us to obey this command?

8. Do you feel isolated in your battle against sin, or do you have authentic friends who are helping you in the fight?

9. What has helped you to develop these authentic friendships?

10. Why are community groups such a great way to foster these much-needed friendships within the church?

Additional Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life personally to produce His good fruits and to give you victory over the fruits of the sinful flesh?

2. If you feel isolated from others in your fight against sin, what steps will you take to begin changing this?