




COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: The church is called to be a counter-cultural community in a me-centered society.

HEAD CHANGE: Hyper-individualism is contrary to Jesus' vision for His church.

HEART CHANGE: Humility and facing conflicts head-on are essential for healthy Christian community.

LIFE CHANGE: Spiritual formation occurs primarily in the context of community.

OVERVIEW

This sermon addresses the challenges facing the modern church, emphasizing the importance of deep, committed Christian community in a hyper-individualistic society. The pastor explores how genuine spiritual growth occurs within the context of long-term relationships, even through conflicts and difficulties. He contrasts the world's self-centered approach with Jesus' call for unity and love among believers, urging the congregation to resist the temptation to abandon community when things get tough.

"God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God."

Matthew 5:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the concept of the church as a "school of love" challenge or inspire you?
2. What are some specific ways we can resist the temptation to "bolt" when conflicts arise in our church relationships?
3. What does it mean to you personally to 'humble yourself before God' in the context of community relationships?
4. How might committing to long-term service within a church community contribute to both personal spiritual growth and the overall health of the church?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, help us to resist the pull of individualism and instead embrace the counter-cultural community You desire for Your church. Give us the courage to face conflicts, the humility to put others first, and the love to build deep, lasting relationships that reflect Your character to the world. Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!