



Set Your Mind: The Inseparable Role Community in Biblical Love

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- The Connection Between Love and Community
- Colossians 3: 12-14 NIV—"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."
- James 3:17 ESV—" But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."
- These are examples of how biblical love is actually experienced, not just theorized. Open to reason. Impartial means listening to more than one side.
- Theoretical grace is "the heretical" grace. Just as faith without works is dead, love without someone to whom it is expressed and demonstrated, especially in differences, difficulties and tension, is merely platitude.
- I Corinthians 13:1-3 NIV—" If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

- Love only works if there is someone I choose to live in community with—to express this love to and receive this love from as an intentional pursuit of God’s ways. Community takes love from the theoretical to the actual—it is moving from proclamation to practice.

- **The Core Values of Community**

1. Devote Daily

- How did you feed your soul, feed your flesh, and feed others?

2. Pursue Relationally

- Romans 12:10 ESV –Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

3. Counsel Biblically

4. Live Authentically

- James 5:16 ESV-- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

5. Admonish Faithfully

- Colossians 3:16 ESV-- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

6. Engage Missionally

- Not just missions trips! Living and working together to see and help the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, the trafficked, the slave, the widow, the refugee.