
Worship in Spirit and Truth:
“Life Together”
Psalm 133

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“Getting saved is easy; becoming a community is difficult - damnably difficult.” - Eugene Peterson

“I didn’t come to the conviction easily, but finally there was no getting around it; there can be no maturity in the spiritual life, no obedience in following Jesus, no wholeness in the Christian life apart from an immersion and embrace of community. I am not myself by myself. Community, not the highly vaunted individualism of our culture, is the setting in which Christ is at play.” - Eugene Peterson

“If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even when there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The biggest problem people have in searching for the perfect community is just that. You don’t *find* community; you create it through love. Look how this transforms the way you enter a room of strangers. Our instinctive thought is, “Who do I know? Who am I comfortable with?” There’s nothing wrong with those questions, but the Jesus questions that create communities are, “Who can I love? Who is left out?”

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- Why do you think that Eugene Peterson asserts that “getting saved is easy; becoming a community is difficult - damnably difficult”? What does he mean? Is this your experience with forming community?
- Peterson also writes that there can be no spiritual growth or vitality apart from immersion in the life of the church. What does mean for the Christian culture’s emphasis on a personal relationship with Jesus? What does immersion in the life of the church look like? Can it really be the impetus for growth and vitality as a believer?
- What do you make of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s thoughts above? Where are tempted to complain that your experience of church/community is “paltry” and “far from what we expected”?
- Which of the threats to life together are most enticing to you? What are some times that you have experienced the delights of life together? How have those times transformed and shaped you?
- How do you understand Paul Miller’s remark that we don’t find community - we create it?