

Gospel ~~plus~~ Community

Philippians 2:1-8

We are at risk of contenting ourselves with Gospelplus Community in which our relationships are forged and maintained by *natural* connections and not by *supernatural* realities.

1. What are some *natural* connections that forge and maintain Gospelplus community?
 - a. Gospel plus your _____
 - b. Gospel plus your _____
 - c. Gospel plus your _____
 - d. Gospel plus your _____
 - e. Gospel plus your _____
 - f. Gospel plus your _____

2. What are the *supernatural* realities that forge and maintain Gospel community?
 - a. Supernatural _____ in Christ.
 - b. Supernatural _____ from love.
 - c. Supernatural _____ in the Spirit.
 - d. Supernatural _____ of affection and compassion.

3. How can you intentionally pursue Gospel community?
 - a. Supernaturally turn away from _____ - _____ community.
 - b. Supernaturally turn away from _____ - _____ community.
 - c. Supernaturally embrace an _____ - _____ - _____ attitude.
 - d. Supernaturally _____ others.



Gospel ~~plus~~
Community

Philippians 2:1-4

If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Case Studies

- Jimmy is a 15 year old boy who enjoys art and music and wants to be a pilot, but he's struggling in school and with friends and is spending increasing quantities of time in his room alone.
- Jill is a 26 year old college graduate who is working as a marketing analyst. She likes her job, but she is lonely and longs to be married and is finding distraction by bingeing on Netflix.
- Anna is a 34 year old woman who is married with 3 children and pregnant. She is homeschooling her 2 older kids but feels disorganized and discouraged. She is tired, ashamed, and irritable.

Case Studies

- Len is a 41 year old divorced man who has partial custody of 3 teenagers. He is an attorney who loves fantasy football but has no time for friends and is frustrated with his ex-wife's demands and his managing partner's expectations. He feels like he's barely hanging on.
- Jerry and Joan are 61 and 63 and married for 41 rocky years. They are struggling now with conflict and guilt over children. They have 2 who are living and a son who was killed in a motorcycle accident. Their 6 grandchildren are 8 hours away in different directions, and finances are stretched thin with health issues and retirement looming.

What kind of community will each
of these people look for?

What kind of community do they need?

What kind of community are
you looking for?

Big Idea

We are at risk of contenting ourselves with Gospel *plus* Community in which our relationships are forged and maintained by *natural* connections and not by *supernatural* realities.

Underlying Truth

Christian community is
supernatural community.

It is fundamentally different from worldly community in that it is made possible and made helpful only by *supernatural* means.

Gospel ~~plus~~ Community

What are some *natural* connections that forge and maintain Gospel *plus* Community?

A Warning Label

NONE of the following connections are sinful or bad in themselves, but they are all natural, temporal, and powerless to bring healing to the soul.

Natural Connections

Gospel *plus* Your Personality

Natural Connections

Gospel *plus* your Personality

Gospel *plus* your Project

Natural Connections

Gospel *plus* your Personality

Gospel *plus* your Project

Gospel *plus* your Problem

Natural Connections

Gospel *plus* your Personality

Gospel *plus* your Project

Gospel *plus* your Problem

Gospel *plus* your Past

Natural Connections

Gospel *plus* your Personality

Gospel *plus* your Project

Gospel *plus* your Problem

Gospel *plus* your Past

Gospel *plus* your Place

Natural Connections

Gospel *plus* your Personality

Gospel *plus* your Project

Gospel *plus* your Problem

Gospel *plus* your Past

Gospel *plus* your Place

Gospel *plus* your Passion

Back to our case studies: What do these people share in common?

- They have **all** been hurt and sinned against.
- They have **all** failed.
- They **all** have regrets.
- They **all** have or will experience loss.
- They **all** have or will be surprised, even shocked by life.
- They will **all** suffer.
- They will **all** face death – others' and their own.

What do they all need?

They all need community,
but they need community forged and
maintained by *supernatural* realities
powerful enough to bring lasting help
and healing to their souls.

They need **Gospel Community!**

Gospel ~~plus~~ Community

What are the *supernatural* realities that forge and maintain **Gospel Community**?

Philippians 2:1-2

If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ,
if there is any consolation of love,
if there is any fellowship of the Spirit,
if any affection and compassion,
make my joy complete by being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love, united in spirit,
intent on one purpose.

What are these realities?

Supernatural *encouragement* in Christ

Supernatural Encouragement

Philippians 2:1-2

Since therefore there is **encouragement in Christ,**

since there is consolation of love,
since there is fellowship of the Spirit,
since there is affection and compassion,
make my joy complete by being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love, united in spirit,
intent on one purpose.

In the inevitable troubles of the world, the only reality that has lasting power to lift the downcast soul is the reality of an unbreakable union with Christ.

What are these realities?

Supernatural *encouragement* in Christ

Supernatural *comfort* from love

Supernatural Comfort

Philippians 2:1-2

Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ,

since there is **consolation of love**,

since there is fellowship of the Spirit,
since there is affection and compassion,
make my joy complete by being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love, united in spirit,
intent on one purpose.

You have likely experienced or long to experience the comfort that comes from love.

Only believers can know and share the infinite, unqualified love of God.

What are these realities?

Supernatural *encouragement* in Christ

Supernatural *comfort* from love

Supernatural *participation* in the Spirit

Supernatural Participation

Philippians 2:1-2

Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ,
since there is consolation of love,

since there is **fellowship of the Spirit,**

since there is affection and compassion,
make my joy complete by being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love, united in spirit,
intent on one purpose.

Every believer is indwelled by the same Holy Spirit who is at work in each one of us to accomplish the same purposes.

Participation in the Same Spirit

Philippians 2:1-2

Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ,
since there is consolation of love,
since there is fellowship of the Spirit,
since there is affection and compassion,
make my joy complete by being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love, united in spirit,
intent on one purpose.

What are these realities?

Supernatural *encouragement* in Christ

Supernatural *comfort* from love

Supernatural participation in the Spirit

Supernatural *reception*
of affection and compassion.

Supernatural Gifts

Philippians 2:1-2

Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ,
since there is consolation of love,
since there is fellowship of the Spirit,

since there is **affection and compassion,**

make my joy complete by being of the same mind,
maintaining the same love, united in spirit,
intent on one purpose.

Christ has poured out tenderness and compassion upon His people, and the Spirit is at work to impress these realities upon your soul.

Romans 5:5

...and **hope does not disappoint**,
because the love of God has been poured out within
our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Titus 3:4-6

But when the **kindness** of God our Savior and His **love** for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His **mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...

Not only have you received the
tenderness and compassion
of Christ, you have been called to
share it with others.

Gospel ~~plus~~ Community

What are some *natural* connections that forge and maintain Gospel *plus* Community?

What are the *supernatural* realities that forge and maintain Gospel Community?

How can **you** intentionally pursue
Gospel Community?

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,
but with humility of mind let each of you
regard one another as more important than himself;
do not merely look out for your own interests,
but also for the interests of others.

How You Pursue Community

Supernaturally turn away from
self-seeking community.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,
but with humility of mind let each of you
regard one another as more important than himself;
do not merely look out for your own interests,
but also for the interests of others.

Self-Seeking Community?

I belong *because I fit*;

I have found others who are like me or who are in my life-stage or who share my same struggles or who...

I do **not** belong *because I don't fit*;

I haven't found others who are like me or who understand me or who...

What greater commonality could you have than what you share in Christ?

You need to ask yourself:

Am I looking for a ***Gospel*** community or am I looking for a **plus** community?

How You Pursue Community

Supernaturally turn away from *self-seeking* community.

Supernaturally turn away from
self-promoting community.

Empty Self-Promotion

Philippians 2:3-4

No one thing as a self-seeker **according to**
vainglory,

but with humility of mind let each of you
regard one another as more important than himself;
do not merely look out for your own interests,
but also for the interests of others.

Self-Promoting Community?

I belong *because* I know the information and am able to answer the questions and feel good about my contribution.

I do **not** belong because I don't know the information and am unable to answer the questions and don't feel that I contribute.

What do both of these people need?

Supernatural humility!

How You Pursue Community

Supernaturally turn away from *self-seeking* community.
Supernaturally turn away from *self-promoting* community.

Supernaturally embrace
an *others-are-better* attitude.

Philippians 2:3-4

No one thing as a self-seeker according to empty conceit,
but with humility of mind let each of you
regard one another as more important than himself;
do not merely look out for your own interests,
but also for the interests of others.

What would a community look like where everyone considered everyone else with a *better-than-me* attitude?

How You Pursue Community

Supernaturally turn away from *self-seeking* community.
Supernaturally turn away from *self-promoting* community.
Supernaturally embrace an *others-are-better* attitude.

Supernaturally *love* others.

Philippians 2:3-4

No one thing as a self-seeker according to empty conceit,
but with humility of mind let each of you
regard one another as *better than* yourself;
do not merely look out for your own interests,
but also for the interests of others.

Supernatural love is a passionate pursuit of the best interests of others, knowing that their best interest is found in Christ.

The Foundation of Your Love

Philippians 2:5-8

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and being made in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

You are only able to live out the realities of Gospel Community because this Christ is in you!

The love found in Gospel Community is supernatural!

John 13:35

**“By this all men will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.”**

**That is, if you have the supernatural
love of Christ for one another.**

Closing Questions:

What would happen to your community if the gospel were removed?

Will the community you are seeking be capable of ministering true hope to you in the difficulties of your life and especially in your death?