

## “Re-envisioning: Biblical Community”

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Central Thought:** *The values of Biblical community are the motivators for the acts of Biblical community. If we are to live as the credible community for which Jesus died, we must embrace the value of community, loving what Jesus loves.*

“ECB is a **B** \_\_\_\_\_ **c** \_\_\_\_\_  
of the nations to the nations with prayer as our foundation.  
We are called to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ,  
serve each other and reach the world.”

**Biblical community is an intentional connection  
of Christ in me to Christ in you  
which e \_\_\_\_\_ the Church in Christ and  
d \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in the world.**

### The Values of Biblical Community

1. **S** \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. To Jesus
    - vv.11,19,24—God c \_\_\_\_\_ us as He sees fit.
  - b. To one another
    - vv.13,24—Jesus connects me to His brothers and sisters.
2. **C** \_\_\_\_\_
  - It must be intentional from within me.
  - If I belong to Christ, I belong to other believers.
  - If I am not connected to other believers, I may not be following Jesus as closely as I think.
3. **U** \_\_\_\_\_
  - The word “university” is the combination of u \_\_\_\_\_ and d \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Our manyness is in our King’s purposes.
    - Our oneness is in our K \_\_\_\_\_.
  - vv.14-20—The body must have many parts.
    - v.17—Unity without diversity is m \_\_\_\_\_ or uniformity.
      - 1) We must be o \_\_\_\_\_ without uniformity.
      - 2) We can’t be a unity unless we are many. Diversity tests unity.
    - C \_\_\_\_\_ leads to uniformity.
    - v.16—We w \_\_\_\_\_ those who are most unlike us because we can’t do without them.
  - vv.21-26—The parts must be c \_\_\_\_\_.
    - v.25—Diversity without unity is c \_\_\_\_\_ and individualism.
      - 1) We must be many without living separately.

- 2) We can’t be many unless we do it as one. Judges 21:25
  - C \_\_\_\_\_ leads to disconnection.
  - v.21—I celebrate our unity without criticizing. “I don’t need you.”
- vv.12,14,27—The body must be b \_\_\_\_\_ one and many.

### How do we do this?

- The basic necessities for ECB health:
  - E \_\_\_\_\_—connecting to the corporate gathering.
  - E \_\_\_\_\_—establishing my life on the Word.
  - E \_\_\_\_\_—using my gifts to serve Christians.
  - E \_\_\_\_\_—touching the world with my life.
- Ministry Fair—many functions, one purpose.
  - Get information.
  - Make a connection.

<p><b>Word bank:</b> Biblical, community, establishes, displays, submission, combines, connection, university, unity, diversity, King, monotony, one, comparison, welcome, connected, chaos, criticism, both, exalting, equipping, edifying, evangelism,</p>
--

### Questions for home groups / personal meditation

- Would Jesus say that I love what He loves?
- How committed am I to ECB? How is that expressed?
- What would make ECB more welcoming and inclusive?
- How is community expressed in my life?
- What person (not a relative or spouse) really knows what Jesus is doing in my heart?
- In whose life (not a relative or spouse) am I truly celebrating joys and bearing burdens?
- What would the church be like if everyone was committed to the Body of Christ like I am?