

How does the gospel create and sustain Christian community? Use examples from Scripture.

Read Acts 2:37-47

- What do you find attractive about being in Christian community?
- What do you find challenging? How do you think of those challenges in light of the gospel?
- Do you think you can grow as a disciple of Christ without ever committing yourself to a local church? Explain.
- What reasons would you give for why a believer should commit to a local church?

*“God calls His people to lock arms to fight and care for one another in the midst of the battle of life on this side of heaven. Brothers and sisters in Christ who have covenanted together within a local church know with whom they need to make disciples and bear burdens as they encourage and challenge one another with the gospel” - Robert Cheong*

How does membership help our church in upholding the gospel?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5

- Describe how Peter begins his exhortation towards pastors/ elders. Why do you think he begins this way?
- How are the elders to conduct themselves towards the church?
- What should the church’s response be towards leadership?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

- Why is exercising power rightly and submitting to godly authority both matters of the heart? How does the gospel speak to these heart matters?

*“As a gift to his flock, the Chief Shepherd appoints godly men as under-shepherds to tend the flock that he purchased with his blood (Acts 20:28). We know these under-shepherds by various titles used interchangeably, including: pastors, overseers, bishops, and elders. Like the Chief Shepherd, elders or pastors watch over the flock entrusted to their care (1 Pet. 5:1-3) by leading, feeding, and protecting the sheep.” – Thabiti Anyabwile*

On a scale of 1 to 10 what is your commitment to Christian community? How does the love of Christ compel you to move towards your brothers and sisters to a greater level? What practical steps can you take to begin that process?

Pray for Gospel-centered community in both our corporate and community group gatherings. Pray for your pastors and other church leadership.