



## **The Call to Community**

Eph. 2:15b-22, 1 Pet. 2:9-12

### Bottom Line

*Every believer is called to holy community for the glory of God.*

### Introduction

The need for community is deeply ingrained into the soul of every person, both the believer and non-believer.

Community is more than connectedness, but it is *communion*. Biblical community is deeper than mere relationships.

The New Testament never shows anything of a weekend-service-only church attendee.

### Struggle

People are afraid to be truly known.

Community in the modern church has been presented as an option on the menu of choices for the believer's own taste, that he or she would choose a small group if he or she so desires.

### Truth

**Community demonstrates exaltation, reconciliation, and sanctification—all to the glory of God.**

Community exalts the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, first and foremost.

In the gospel, we find reconciliation with both God *and* the fellow believer.

Reconciliation is our greatest witness for the unbelieving community.

**Sanctification is a group project.**

Peter's usage of the word "war" implies the need for an army.

The way in which we live in community will lead people to bring glory to God.

## Conclusion

**Mission Statement:** The Community Group ministry of South Bay Bible Church exists to glorify God through gospel-centered fellowship, teaching, and service.

**Vision Statement:** We are believing that by September of 2021, 75% of our church will be engaged in a weekly Community Group.

## Next Steps

- Contact Pastor Matt about joining in a Community Group.
- Reflect on ways in which your community group has deepened your relationship with Jesus.
- Explore a service opportunity for your community group to serve the neighborhood that surrounds it.