

Be Salty – Part 7 A Salty Community

*“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. **“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.** No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.* **Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)**

To Be Salty We Must Engage In Biblical Community.

- I. **The Lord’s supper – communion – celebration and remembrance of what Christ has done for us! (Luke 22:14-20)**
- II. **The command to be baptized – baptism – identification proclamation (Matthew 28:18-20) identifying with Jesus and proclaiming what he has done in us!**

To Engage In Biblical Community I Must Grasp That:

- **Biblical community must be built.**

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. **And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. **They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—** all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.* **Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)**

- **Biblical community must be sacrificed for.**

*All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. **There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.** For instance, there was Joseph, the one the*

apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. **Acts 4:32-37 (NLT)**

- **Biblical community must be worked for.**

***So don’t sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet!** Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it! **Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you’ll never get so much as a glimpse of God.** Make sure no one gets left out of God’s generosity. **Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.** Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God’s lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God’s blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.* **Hebrews 12:12-17 (MSG)**

- **Biblical community must be focused on others.**

*Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. **Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”** That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles, but waded right in and helped out. “I took on the troubles of the troubled,” is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it’s written for us. **God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we’ll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!*** **Romans 15:1-6 (MSG)**

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13 (NLT)**